



HOW DO I FILE A DISABILITY CLAIM WITH THE VA?

Who Is Eligible?

You may be eligible for disability compensation if you have a service-related disability and you were discharged under other than **dishonorable conditions**. There is no “Time Limit” on when you can file a claim. However, the VA has a 1 year “Presumptive” time frame when it is easier to file and receive a disability rating. After the 1 year period it becomes much harder to receive a rating as medical supporting documentation on the in service disability is required. This means that you will require **New** and **Material** in which to support your medical conditions which were caused while in the military. So the longer you wait the harder it becomes to link your current medical condition to your Military Service.

Where Do I Start?

The DD-214-----The DD-214 is the most important document that you are going to need to file a disability claim is a copy of your DD-214 (Record of Discharge or Release from Active Duty) from the Military. There are 2 types of these forms that were issued to veterans upon separation from the Military. Before 1950 they were called Record of Separation (WD AGO pre-1950) and the newer version DD-214. If you do not have one then you can order one from the National Personnel Record Center, St. Louis, Missouri, or go to any County Veterans Service Office and they can obtain one for you.

The Service Treatment / Medical Records-----The Service Treatment Records are a chronological record of your medical treatment while serving in the military. From Boot Camp to your Separation processing, any and all medical conditions were listed by their date and time. As with the DD-214, these documents are absolutely critical in determining any disabilities that occurred in the military and are mandatory for a disability rating from the VA. Without a copy of your Service Treatment / Medical Records the VA CANNOT and WILL NOT process a disability claim on your behalf, even if lost through no fault of your own.



If the medical conditions have persisted after separation or discharge, and you went to a civilian or VA doctor for follow on care, a copy of these records will be required as well. These documents will show the VA that continuity of the medical condition(s) has continued after military service and are current. Any and all medical records of treatment after military service and are current. Any and all medical records of treatment after military service should be included in the initial disability claim.

The Dependents Supporting Documentation-----The Dependents Supporting documentation consists of a Marriage Certificate if currently married, all of children's birth certificates and Social Security Cards as well as your spouses birth certificate and social security card as well. Divorce decrees of both the Veteran and the spouse of all marriages which have been dissolved by divorce, annulments, or death. Every document is necessary to ensure that you receive the maximum amount of benefits from the Veterans Administration that you may be entitled to.

Now That I have my need documents what do I do? -----The Kings County Veterans Service Office is available to provide the necessary assistance with the final step of your claim processing and that is the filing of your paper work. We will complete all the necessary paper work for you, providing professional, dedicated service for any and all Veterans including their dependents as well. We are knowledgeable in all aspects of claim support, and have computer access for the tracking of your claim. We do not simply have you fill out the paper work, that's our job. We can and will obtain medical records from both the military and civilian doctors on your behalf as well as order you're DD-214 if you need it. In other words we are a One-Stop VA assistance office and look forward to helping you with your claim process.

[Click here for a complete list of the necessary documents that you will need to process your disability claim.](#)