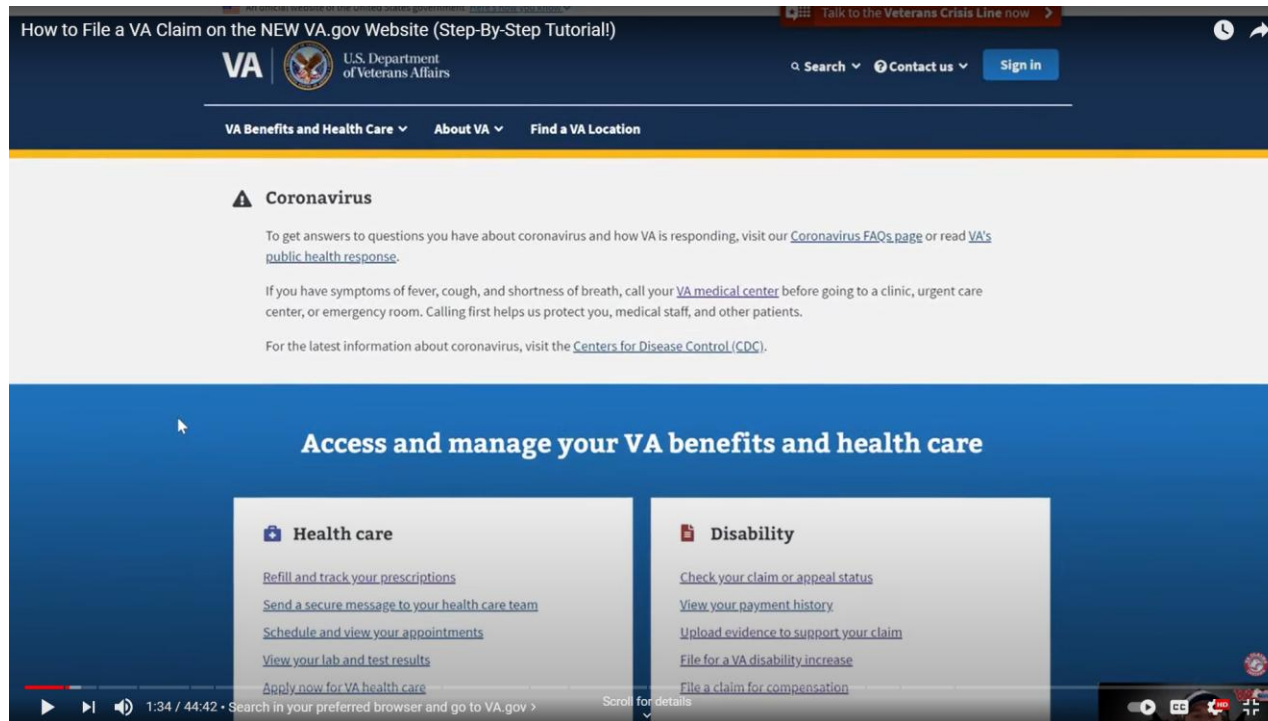




How to File A Disability Claim on VA.GOV

Home page and login



How to File a VA Claim on the NEW VA.gov Website (Step-By-Step Tutorial!) Talk to the Veterans Crisis Line now

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Search Contact us Sign in

VA Benefits and Health Care About VA Find a VA Location

Coronavirus

To get answers to questions you have about coronavirus and how VA is responding, visit our [Coronavirus FAQs page](#) or read VA's [public health response](#).

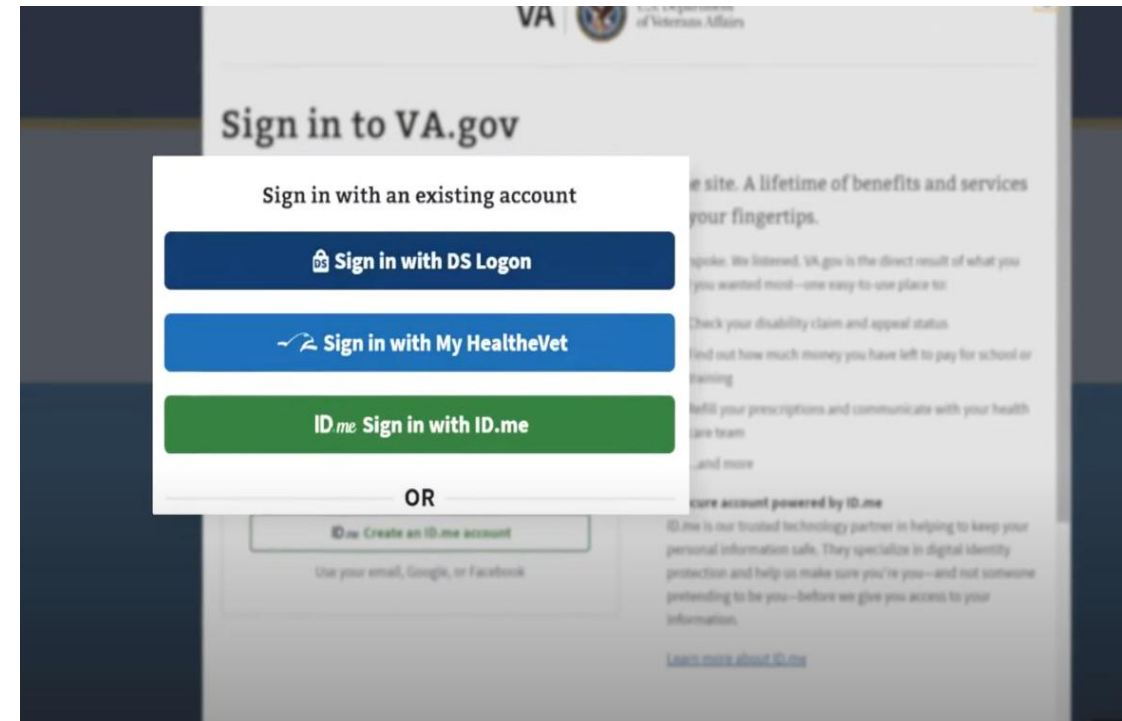
If you have symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath, call your [VA medical center](#) before going to a clinic, urgent care center, or emergency room. Calling first helps us protect you, medical staff, and other patients.

For the latest information about coronavirus, visit the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#).

Access and manage your VA benefits and health care

Health care	Disability
Refill and track your prescriptions	Check your claim or appeal status
Send a secure message to your health care team	View your payment history
Schedule and view your appointments	Upload evidence to support your claim
View your lab and test results	File for a VA disability increase
Apply now for VA health care	File a claim for compensation

1:34 / 44:42 • Search in your preferred browser and go to VA.gov > Scroll for details



Sign in to VA.gov

Sign in with an existing account

- Sign in with DS Logon
- Sign in with My HealtheVet
- Sign in with ID.me

OR

Create an ID.me account

Use your email, Google, or Facebook

ID.me is our trusted technology partner in helping to keep your personal information safe. They specialize in digital identity protection and help us make sure you're you—and not someone pretending to be you—before we give you access to your information.

[Learn more about ID.me](#)

MY VA TAB

- ▶ My VA has information such as:
 - ▶ Current Pending Application Status
 - ▶ You VA Healthcare Status
 - ▶ A link to track your current claims and appeals
 - ▶ A link to manage your prescriptions
 - ▶ Get your VA health Records
 - ▶ Download your VA Award Letters
 - ▶ View and manage your account information

MY HEALTH TAB

- ▶ My health tab automatically sends you to MyHealtheVet and you can:
 - ▶ Add or Cancel appointments
 - ▶ Access your labs and medical records
 - ▶ Send secure messages to your provider
 - ▶ Refill prescriptions

Steps 1 through 5

[Home](#) › [Disability Benefits](#) › [File for Disability Compensation](#)

File for disability compensation

Form 21-526EZ

1 of 5 Veteran Details

This is the personal information we have on file for you.

Note: If you need to update your personal information, please call Veterans Benefits Assistance at [800-827-1000](tel:800-827-1000), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.

[« Back](#)

[Continue »](#)

1 of 5 Veteran Details

Please tell us what type of disability claim you're filing. (Select all that apply.)

I'm filing a claim for:

- A new condition
- One or more of my rated conditions that have gotten worse

[« Back](#)

[Continue »](#)

✔ Application has been saved. Last saved at April 19, 2020 at 1:41 p.m.

[Finish this application later.](#)

2 of 5 Disabilities

On the next few screens, we'll ask you about the disabilities you're claiming, in two parts.

1. Rated service-connected disabilities. We'll ask you to select all the disabilities you're claiming for increase compensation.
2. New conditions connected to your service.

Once you've listed all the conditions you are claiming, we'll ask more specific questions about each of them.

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[Continue »](#)

✔ Application has been saved. Last saved at April 19, 2020 at 1:42 p.m.

[Finish this application later.](#)

Continued

New Disability

If you know the name of your condition, you can type it here. You can write whatever you want and we'll make suggestions for possible disabilities. (Shorter descriptions are better. For example, foot pain, back pain, or hearing loss.)

(*Required)

What if I don't know the name of my condition? ▾

Save

Remove

Add Another Disability

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Continue »

✔ Application has been saved. Last saved at April 19, 2020 at 1:44 p.m.

What if I don't know the name of my condition? ^

If you don't know the name of your condition or aren't finding a match, you can type in your symptoms and we'll help you figure out the name of your condition during the exam process.

Shorter descriptions are better. For example:

- My knee hurts when I walk.
- I have trouble hearing when other people talk.
- My doctor says my cancer may be related to my service.

What caused this service-connected disability?

(*Required)

- My disability was caused by an injury or exposure during my military service.
- My disability was caused by another service-connected disability I already have. (For example, I have a limp that caused lower-back problems.)
- My disability or condition existed before I served in the military, but it got worse because of my military service.
- My disability was caused by an injury or event that happened when I was receiving VA care.

Please briefly describe the injury or exposure during your military service that caused your existing disability to get worse. (50 characters maximum) (*Required)

Please tell us how the disability affected you before your service, and how it affects you now after your service. (350 characters maximum) (*Required)

Continued

Additional disability benefits

You may be eligible for additional disability compensation or benefits to help with special claims like the ones listed below:

- Adapting your home or vehicle to make it more accessible
- Home-based care if you need help with everyday activities or are housebound because of your service-connected disability
- Individual Unemployability if your service-connected disability prevents you from holding down a steady job

We'll ask you a few questions about these situations to see if they apply to you. If you're eligible for these additional benefits, you'll need to download and fill out additional forms to apply.

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Automobile allowance and adaptive benefits

We can help service members and Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities buy a specially equipped vehicle or modify their car or home to make it more accessible. Typically, you can receive the automobile allowance only once in your lifetime.

Do you need help buying or modifying your home?

Yes

No

Do you need help buying or modifying your car?

Yes

No

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Continued

3 of 5 Supporting evidence

On the next few screens, we'll ask you where we can find evidence (supporting documents like doctor's reports, X-rays, and medical test results) related to:

- Your rated service-connected disabilities, if you have any
- Your new service-connected disabilities or conditions

You don't need to turn in any evidence that you submitted with an earlier claim. **You only need to submit new evidence that VA doesn't already have.**

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3 of 5 Supporting evidence

Is there any evidence you'd like us to review as part of your claim? (*Required)

- Yes
- No

What type of evidence do you want us to review as part of your claim? (*Required)

- VA medical records
- Private medical records
- Supporting (lay) statements or other evidence

Which evidence type should I choose? ▾

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- Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ)
- Goldmann Perimetry Chart/Field Of Vision Chart
- Military Personnel Record
- Medical Treatment Records - Furnished by SSA
- Medical Treatment Record - Government Facility
- Medical Treatment Record - Non-Government Facility
- Other Correspondence
- Photographs
- STR - Dental - Photocopy
- STR - Medical - Photocopy**
- VA Form 21-0779 - Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid & Attendance
- VA Form 21-0781 - Statement in Support of Claim for PTSD
- VA Form 21-0781a - Statement in Support of Claim for PTSD Secondary to Personal Assault
- VA Form 21-2680 - Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid & Attendance
- VA Form 21-4142 - Authorization To Disclose Information

[Delete file](#)

Add Another

Continued

3 of 5 Supporting evidence

After we review your disability claim and supporting evidence, we may ask you to have a claim exam (also known as a C&P exam) if we need more information to decide your claim.

⚠ You might receive a phone call from an unfamiliar number to schedule your exam

You'll receive a phone call from a VA third-party vendor or from VA to schedule your exam. It's important that you answer any calls you receive after you file a disability claim.

At this time we partner with 4 vendors:

- QTC Medical Services (QTC)
- VetFed Resources (VetFed)
- Veterans Evaluation Services (VES)
- Logistics Health Inc. (LHI)

More information about claim exams

What happens if I miss a phone call? **+**

4 of 5 Additional information

Contact information

This is the contact information we have on file for you. We'll send any important information about your disability claim to this address. Any updates you make here to your contact information will only apply to this application.

4 of 5 Additional information

Are you homeless or at risk of becoming homeless? (*Required)

- No
- I'm **currently** homeless.
- I'm **at risk** of becoming homeless.

On Step 4, you will verify your information and contact information. You will also verify your bank information

4 of 5 Additional information

High Priority claims

Are you terminally ill?

- Yes
- No

Why does this matter? **^**

We'll help to get your claim processed faster if the evidence to support your claim shows that you're terminally ill. Being terminally ill means you're sick with an illness that can't be cured and will likely result in death within a short period of time.

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Fully developed claim program

You can apply using the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) program if you've uploaded all the supporting documents or additional forms needed to support your claim.

[Learn more about the FDC program.](#)

[View the evidence requirements for disability claims.](#)

Do you want to apply using the Fully Developed Claim program?

(*Required)

- Yes, I have uploaded all my supporting documents.
- No, I have some extra information that I'll submit to VA later.

Since you've uploaded all your supporting documents, your claim will be submitted as a fully developed claim.

If you upload everything, DO THE FDC because you have more control over the claim. This also processes typically within 90 days

Final Step

5 of 5 Review Application

Review Veteran Details



Disabilities



Supporting evidence



Additional information



Note: According to federal law, there are criminal penalties, including a fine and/or imprisonment for up to 5 years, for withholding information or for providing incorrect information. (See 18 U.S.C. 1001)

I have read and accept the [privacy policy](#). (*Required)

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Submit application

It is against federal law to file a false claim or submit false information. DO NOT file a false claim. DO NOT lie or stretch the truth. YOU WILL be fined and may serve jail time

3 Things You Need For a Good Disability Claim:

3 things you need for a good Disability Claim:

1. Medical Diagnosis. Get Appointments and get it in writing!
2. Disability caused or made worse or was a preexisting condition made worse? Get Nexus Letters if you can as well.
3. Severity of symptoms. Was your disability made worse or caused by your active duty service