

1 AM I ELIGIBLE FOR VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Both of these must be true:

- You have an illness or condition that affects your body or mind
- You served on active duty or active/inactive duty training

One of these must be true:

- You were sick or injured while serving and can link the condition or illness to your injury
- You had an illness or injury before joining the military that was made worse during service
- You have a disability related to active-duty service that appeared after your service had ended.

Presumptive Conditions

- Some conditions are presumptive conditions that don't require proof that the service caused the condition. See more at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf>



2 GATHER DOCUMENTS AND EVIDENCE

- DD214 or other separation documents
- Service treatment records
- Medical evidence related to illness/injury (medical records, doctor reports, imaging, test results.)
- Letters from family members, friends, law enforcement, or those who you served with that can describe illness/injury more.

3 NEED HELP?

- Contact a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) if you need help from a trained professional to file your claim.
- Find a VSO at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/VSO-search>



4 FILE

There are 3 ways to file:

File Online:

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>

By Mail using VA Form 21-526EZ

Claims Intake Center
PO Box 4444
Janesville, WI 53547

In Person

File at VA regional office near you



5 AFTER FILING

- Average wait time is 103.5 days as of May 2023.
- If more evidence is needed, you will be contacted.
- Claim packet and details of decision will be sent by U.S. mail.

References

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2023). *How to file a disability claim.* [HTTPS://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/)