



FULLY DEVELOPED CLAIMS

FILING AN eCLAIM

An electronic claim, or eClaim, offers Veterans a faster and easier way to file and receive decisions on their VA claims. When Veterans submit an electronic Fully Developed Claim (FDC) on eBenefits, they can receive a faster claim decision by providing all required documents at the same time and certifying that they have no more evidence to submit.

Filing an eClaim

Veterans may now file an eClaim or electronic FDC on eBenefits for:

- » An injury, disability, or condition believed to have occurred or been aggravated by military service.
- » A condition caused or aggravated by an existing service-related condition.

Working with a VSO

Veterans are encouraged to work with a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) to get the fastest VA decision. A VSO is an official representative who can help gather required records and evidence on your behalf and review your application for completeness prior to submission. VSOs can check for any missing evidence or information to ensure that your claim is complete.

Appoint or contact your Veterans Service Officer for help filing an eClaim, or visit www.eBenefits.va.gov to start filing today. You may also call 1-800-827-1000, Option 7 for assistance.



How to File an eClaim Online

- 1** Log into **eBenefits**, select **Apply for Benefits**, then click **Apply for Disability Compensation** to start a new application.
- 2** We encourage you to appoint a **VSO** as your **Power of Attorney (POA)** to help you collect documents and submit your claim.
- 3** Identify your **Federal Records**.
- 4** Gather and upload all **private medical records**.
- 5** Verify you have no more evidence and **submit your claim**. You can check the status of your claim by logging on to your eBenefits account.

SPOTLIGHT

WHY CHOOSE TO FILE AN eCLAIM?

- It helps you take charge of your claim by providing all the evidence at once.
- You can take advantage of a shortened web-based application process that reduces paperwork and allows for quicker claims processing than when a traditional claim is filed.
- There's no risk to filing an electronic FDC. If your claim does not qualify as an FDC, it will still be processed through the traditional route.
- You have one full year to complete the application process. If your claim is approved, you could be paid back to the day your claim was initiated.
- It decreases the amount of time VA spends developing and processing your claim, which gives you a faster claim decision.
- It contributes to reducing the VA claims backlog.



Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or VSO representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

TOP 10 HELPFUL TIPS FOR ELECTRONIC FULLY DEVELOPED CLAIMS

1 File Your Disability Compensation Claim Electronically Through eBenefits.

The paperless, electronic claims submission process on eBenefits allows you to fill out your application, upload all required documentation, and submit your claim with ease.

2 Submit Your Application and All Documentation Within One Year of Starting Your Claim.

You have the option of starting your claim to preserve your start date, from which benefits may be paid if your claim is awarded. You must submit all required documents within one year of the claim start date.

3 Gather and Submit ALL Documentation Simultaneously with Your Claim Application.

A claim can only be considered "Fully Developed" and eligible for faster processing if all required and relevant documentation is provided at the same time you submit your claim.

4 Read and Follow All Online Application Instructions Carefully.

Make sure you read and follow the online application instructions and pay close attention to any special circumstances that apply to you.

5 Partner with a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) to File Your Claim.

Accredited VSOs can serve as your Power of Attorney (POA), collecting important documentation on your behalf and ensuring your claim is complete.

6 Provide Specific Information on Your Application Forms.

Make sure you provide detailed information about your claimed disabilities and federal records that VA can collect on your behalf.

7 DO NOT Submit VA Form 21-4142, Authorization and Consent to Release Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In the traditional claims process, VA Form 21-4142 is used to give VA permission to gather records on your behalf. In the FDC Program, you must personally submit all required documentation in your possession, such as private medical records, and provide information on federal records you would like VA to gather for you.

8 If You're a Member of the National Guard or Reserve, YOU Must Submit Your Service Treatment Records.

National Guard and Reserve members must provide any and all Service Treatment and Personnel Records in the custody of their Unit(s) simultaneously with their claim.

9 Submit a Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) to Support Your Claim.

DBQs provide additional medical information to help determine a disability rating and can be downloaded from the VA website and filled out by a VA clinician or a private physician with an active medical license.

10 Attend Scheduled VA Medical Examinations.

If a VA Medical Exam is required for your claim, you must attend this appointment to keep your claim in the FDC Program.

File an eClaim today, and keep these helpful tips in mind to get the benefits you deserve, faster.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/fdc/>, reach out to your local VSO, or call 1-800-827-1000, Option 7 for assistance.