



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Standard Claims and Appeals Forms Update

VA Wants to Make Filing Claims Faster and Easier

VA wants it to be as fast and easy as possible for you to file your claims. All Veterans and Service members deserve timely and accurate claims decisions. As of March 24, 2015, VA requires the use of standardized forms when filing. These forms allow you to clearly identify your symptoms or conditions. This ensures you submit the right information to process your claims.

Required Forms

Use the following forms to process your specific benefit claims:

Disability Compensation

- File online through eBenefits at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>.
- Submit VA Form 21-526EZ, "Application for Disability Compensation and Related Benefits," accessed at:
https://www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=21-526EZ.

Needs-based Pension

Wartime Veterans can file for needs-based pension. Submit VA Form 21-527EZ, "Application for Pension." You can access this form at:
https://www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=21P-527EZ.

Survivor's Claims

If you are a survivor, you can file for:

- Dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC)
- Survivor's pension

- Accrued benefits

Submit VA Form 21P-534EZ, “Application for DIC, Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits.” You can access this form at:

www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=21P-534EZ.

Intent to File Process

If you need more time to collect support for your claim, you may use the optional intent to file process. Submit VA Form 21-0966, “Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivor’s Pension and/or DIC.” You can access this form at:

www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=21-0966. This protects your effective date. It also gives you up to one year to finish the process.

Appealing a VA Compensation Decision

There is a process for appealing a decision. If your disability compensation decision was made after March 24, 2015, you must submit VA Form 21-0958, “Notice of Disagreement.” You can access this form at:

www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=21-0958. This form is no longer optional. It is required. However, you are not required to use this form for pension or survivor benefits.

How Will Use of Standardized Forms Help Veterans?

Using standard forms has the following benefits:

- Faster claims decisions
- Less uncertainty
- More efficient processes

It also helps ensure VA receives the right information to process your claim. The claims process should not be a guessing game.

VA encourages online filing through [eBenefits at https://www.ebenefits.va.gov](https://www.ebenefits.va.gov). eBenefits will guide you through the process.

Reach out to one of the following if you need help submitting your claim:

- Veterans Service Organizations (VSO)
- State and county agencies
- Other stakeholders

They can help with both online and paper forms. You can also download all forms from VA's forms website. Visit www.va.gov/vaforms. Or, call 800-827-1000 to have the form sent to your home. Then, you can mail or fax the form back.