



File your PACT Act claim by August 9 to be eligible for backdated benefits



There's no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits. But if you file your PACT Act claim—or quickly submit your intent to file—by **August 9, 2023**, you may receive benefits backdated to August 10, 2022. So don't wait, apply today.

[File a disability claim online \(https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/\)](https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/).

[Learn how to submit your intent to file \(https://www.va.gov/resources/your-intent-to-file-a-va-claim\)](https://www.va.gov/resources/your-intent-to-file-a-va-claim/).

English (<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits>) | **Español** (<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits-esp>) | **Tagalog** (<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits-tag>)

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their [survivors \(https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/#information-for-survivors\)](https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/#information-for-survivors)—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

This page will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.



[File a disability claim online](https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/)

[\(https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/\)](https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/)



[Apply for VA health care \(https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/\)](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/)

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What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition.

But for some conditions, we automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. We call these “presumptive conditions.”

We consider a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation.

If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

Gulf War era and post-9/11 Veteran eligibility

[Expand all +](#)

What burn pit and other toxic exposure conditions are now presumptive?	+
How do I know if I have a presumptive exposure to burn pits?	+
Are there more exposure-related presumptive conditions?	+
Am I eligible for free VA health care as a post-9/11 combat Veteran?	+
What if I was discharged or released before October 1, 2013?	+

Vietnam era Veteran eligibility

[Expand all +](#)

What new Agent Orange presumptive conditions will VA	+
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add?	•
Are there more exposure-related presumptive conditions?	+
What new Agent Orange presumptive locations will VA add?	+
What new radiation presumptive locations will VA add?	+
Am I eligible for VA health care as a Vietnam Veteran?	+

Getting benefits

[Expand all +](#)

How do I file a disability claim for a new presumptive condition?	+
What if VA denied my claim but now considers my condition presumptive?	+
What if I have a pending claim for a condition that's now presumptive?	+
Can I apply now?	+
When can I expect VA to make a decision on my PACT Act claim?	+

Toxic exposure screenings

[Expand all +](#)

Can I get a toxic exposure screening at VA?	+
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Information for survivors

Expand all +

Can Veterans' survivors get compensation payments under the PACT Act?



What if VA denied my DIC claim and I think I'm now eligible?



What other VA benefits are survivors eligible for?



[File a disability claim online](https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/)

(<https://www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claim-form-21-526ez/>).



[Apply for VA health care](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/) (<https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/>).

Tags

All Veterans (<https://www.va.gov/resources/tag/all-veterans>)

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Related information

[The VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard website](https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/healthcare/pactact)

(<https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/healthcare/pactact>)

[Camp Lejeune water contamination health issues](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/camp-lejeune-water-contamination/)

(<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/camp-lejeune-water-contamination/>)

[Exposure to hazardous chemicals and materials](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure)

(<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure>)

[Environmental health registry evaluation for Veterans \(VA public health website\)](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/registry-evaluation.asp)

(<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/registry-evaluation.asp>)

[VA benefits for spouses, dependents, survivors, and family caregivers](https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits) (<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits>)

VA benefits

[Health care](https://www.va.gov/health-care) (<https://www.va.gov/health-care>)

Apply for VA health care, find out how to access services, and manage your health and benefits online.

[Disability](https://www.va.gov/disability) (<https://www.va.gov/disability>)

File a claim for disability compensation for conditions related to your military service, and manage your benefits over time.

Need more help?

MyVA411 main information line: [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411)

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