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It's better to prepare 5 years early than 5 minutes late!

# Checklist: Getting VA Benefits for Your Loved One

## **Step 1: Gather Information**

- Locate your loved one's DD214 (discharge papers)
  If you don't have it, request it online (see below)
- Have their Social Security number
- Have your own and any dependents' SSNs (if applicable)
- Collect insurance and income info
- Gather any relevant medical records

### **Step 2: Apply for VA Benefits Online**

Go to **VA.gov** to begin.

- Create or sign in with your VA.gov account
- Apply for health care (VA Form 10-10EZ)
- Apply for disability compensation or pension (VA Form 21-526EZ)
- Upload DD214 (if available)

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### Step 3: Submit Supporting Documents

- If you have the DD214, scan and upload it
- If not, request it online (see below) and upload it later
- Keep digital copies of all uploaded documents

### Step 4: Request the DD214 (If You Don't Have It)

#### Option 1: Online via eVetRecs

- Visit eVetRecs at archives.gov
- Sign in with **ID.me** (for security)
- Complete the request with as much info as possible
- If your loved one has passed away, provide proof of death (obituary, death certificate, etc.)

#### **Option 2: Mail or Fax Standard Form SF-180**

- Download **SF-180** from archives.gov
- Fill out and mail or fax it to the listed address
- ☐ Most requests are **free** if the veteran separated less than 62 years ago.

### **Step 5: Get Support (No Need to Go In Person)**

- Call the VA for help: 877-222-8387 (Mon–Fri, 8am–8pm ET)
- Work with a VSO (Veterans Service Organization) for free help
  - Find one at https://www.ebenefits.va.gov

# **★** Bonus Tips

- You can apply now, even if you're still waiting on the DD214
- Track your application and upload documents later via your VA.gov account
- No need to go to a VA office—everything can be done online or by phone

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