

Military Veterans



Timber Pines



Military Veterans



Timber Pines

To honor, educate, and assist all US Military veterans, men and women by providing social opportunities, information on veterans' entitlements, and outreach activities that address needs beyond the scope of other support groups

Intent to File Claim

Veterans and survivors can use the intent to file process if they need additional time to gather support for their claim. The intent to file process can be used for VA compensation and pension benefits. This includes Survivors Pension and Dependency and indemnity Compensation.

What is the intent to file process?

This process allows you more time to collect information to support your claim. It also protects the earliest possible effective date for any benefits resulting from your claim. The date VA receives your intent to file will be protected as your effective date. However, the correct application form must be submitted within one year.

What does an Intent to File claim contain?

Your intent to file must contain:

- Enough personal information to identify the Veteran or claimant
- The general benefit you are seeking
- You or your representative's signature

How Do Veterans or Survivors Notify VA of Their Intent to File?

There are three ways you can notify VA of your intent to file a claim.

1. Go online through eBenefits at www.va.gov. Use the support of a VSO through the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal. You must follow this process:

- Initiate a claim.
- Complete the personal information page.
- Hit save to establish your effective date. This allows one year to complete the application.

2. Mail paper VA Form 21-0966, "Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension and/or DIC." You can access this form at www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0966-ARE.pdf.

3. Over the phone or in person:

- Call our National Call Center at 800-827-1000.
- Tell a representative in person at one of VA's regional benefit offices. Locate a regional office at www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp.

You may also appoint a recognized representative to notify us on your behalf.

Intent to File Preserves the Effective Date of a Potential Claim

You will have up to one year from the date VA receives your intent to file to submit a formal claim. This process also allows VA to award backdated benefits from the date of your diagnosis or treatment. Your intent to file just needs to be filed within one year of the diagnosis or treatment. Then, your required claim form needs to be filed within one year.

Other Important Information About Intent to File

- You can only submit one intent to file at a time.
- After you submit a completed claim, your intent to file will no longer be active. If you expect to file an intent to file for another general benefit, you must submit a new form.

Consider this sample process:

1. VA receives an intent to file for compensation benefits on April 1, 2015.
2. VA receives an application for compensation benefits on Aug. 1, 2015.
3. You file another application for compensation benefits on Jan. 1, 2016.

In this case, VA considers an effective date of April 1, 2015 for any benefits awarded as a result of the Aug. 1, 2015 application. However, the April 1, 2015 intent to file date will not be used for any benefits awarded as a result of the Jan. 1, 2016 application.

If a second intent to file for compensation benefits is received on Oct. 1, 2015, VA considers an effective date of April 1, 2015. This is the date VA received the intent to file for any benefits as a result of the Aug. 1, 2015 application. VA will also consider an effective date of Oct. 1, 2015 for any benefits as a result of the Jan. 1, 2016 application. For more Information, call 800-827-1000. or visit explore.va.gov/intent-to-file.

SECTION III: GENERAL BENEFIT ELECTION

IMPORTANT: VA may not be able to use this form to establish an effective date for benefits if you **do not** select one or more of the general benefits listed below.

19. I INTEND TO FILE FOR THE GENERAL BENEFIT(S) CHECKED BELOW: (Choose all that apply)

COMPENSATION PENSION

NOTE: ONLY CHECK THE BOX BELOW IF YOU ARE A SURVIVING DEPENDENT OF THE VETERAN.

SURVIVORS PENSION AND/OR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

IMPORTANT: After receiving this form, VA will give you the appropriate application to file for the general benefit you select above. You can also apply for VA disability compensation online at www.va.gov. If you give VA a completed application for the selected general benefit within *one* year of filing this form, your completed application will be considered filed as of the date of receipt of this form. Only the *first* completed application for each selected general benefit that is received after you file this form will be considered filed as of the date of receipt of this form. You may indicate your intent to file for more than one general benefit on this form or you may submit a separate intent to file (VA Form 21-0966) for each general benefit. Please complete as much of this form as possible, as VA cannot process this form if we cannot identify the claimant and/or veteran.

SECTION IV: DECLARATION OF INTENT AND SIGNATURE

By filing this form, I **HEREBY INDICATE MY INTENT** to apply for one or more general benefits under the laws administered by VA.

I acknowledge that:

- (1) this is **not a claim for benefits**,
- (2) I must file a complete application for each general benefit with VA before VA will process my claim; and
- (3) a complete application for the same general benefit(s) as indicated on this form must be received within one year of the date VA receives this form for my application to be considered filed as of the date of this form.

20. SIGNATURE OF VETERAN/CLAIMANT/AUTHORIZED AGENT (REQUIRED)

21. DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)

[Signature box]

[Date box: MM/DD/YYYY]

22. NAME OF ATTORNEY, AGENT, OR VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION (VSO) (Please Print)

NOTE: This form may only be completed by a VSO, attorney, or agent if a valid power of attorney has been completed.

[Name of attorney/agent/VSO box]

Where to Send Correspondence - After completing this form, mail to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Evidence Intake Center
P.O. Box 4444
Janesville, WI 53547- 4444

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties (including fine and/or imprisonment) for willfully submitting any statement or evidence of a material fact you know to be false, or for fraudulent receipt of any document you are not entitled to.

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Veteran Readiness and Employment Records-VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required only to preserve a date of claim for an application that is received within one year of receipt of this form. VA uses your Social Security number to identify if you have a claim file and to ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine the appropriate application and provide it to the claimant.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to determine the intent of the claimant and to provide the claimant with the appropriate application for VA benefits (38 U.S.C. 5102). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 5 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.