



CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE REVIEW


Even with a less than honorable discharge, you may be able to access some VA benefits through the Character of Discharge review process. When you apply for VA benefits, we'll review your record to determine if your service was "honorable for VA purposes." This review can take up to a year. Please provide us with documents supporting your case, similar to the evidence you'd send with an application to upgrade your discharge.

You may want to consider finding someone to advocate on your behalf, depending on the complexity of your case. A lawyer or Veterans Service Organization (VSO) can collect and submit supporting documents for you.

CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE REVIEW

- Completed by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Eligibility for VA Benefits that would normally be barred due to Character of Discharge
 - See fact sheet, "Benefits by Discharge Type" for benefits that barred forever under this program
- Does NOT change your discharge type – No correction to DD214
- Reviews your personal situation and can grant certain VA benefits based on extenuating circumstances
- Must be previously denied VA benefits OR applying for a VA benefit today

Organizations that can assist you with "CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE REVIEWS"

- Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. 
- UIC John Marshall Law School Veteran Clinic 