

[In this section](#)

claims and when to file

Find out when you can first file a claim for service-connected benefits—and what to do if you want to request more benefits or have new evidence to support a claim we denied in the past.

Learn when to file claims

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Original claim—file your first claim for disability compensation.

Increased claim—file a claim for more compensation for a disability that we've already determined to be service connected and that's gotten worse.

New claim—file a claim for added benefits or other benefit requests related to an existing service-connected disability.

Secondary service-connected claim—file a claim for a new disability that's linked to a service-connected disability you already have.

Special claim—file a claim for special needs linked to your service-connected disability.

Supplemental Claim—provide new evidence to support a disability claim that was denied.

Programs to help speed up your claim

[Learn what the PACT Act means for your VA benefits >](#)



[Pre-discharge claim \(https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file/pre-discharge-claim\)](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file/pre-discharge-claim)

If you have 180 to 90 days left on active duty, find out how to file a disability claim through the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) program to get your benefits sooner.

[Fully developed disability claims \(https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/evidence-needed/fully-developed-claims\)](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/evidence-needed/fully-developed-claims)

Find out how to use the Fully Developed Claims program to get a faster decision on your disability benefits claim by submitting your evidence (supporting documents) along with your claim.

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