OMB Control No. 2900-0862 Respondent Burden: 15 minutes Expiration Date: 4/30/2024

## Department of Veterans Affairs

## **DECISION REVIEW REQUEST: HIGHER-LEVEL REVIEW**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Before completing this form, read the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden on page 5. Use this form to request a Higher-Level Review of a decision you received. A Higher-Level Review is a new review of an issue(s) previously decided by VA based on the evidence of record at the time of the prior decision. For more information call us toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal relay number is 711. VA forms are available at www.va.gov/vaforms.

VA DATE STAMP DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

decision. For more information call us toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal relay number is 711. VA forms are available at <a href="www.va.gov/vaforms">www.va.gov/vaforms</a> .																														
	•	<u> </u>					SEC	TION	۱ - ۱ <i>۱</i>	ΙE.	TER	AN'S	IDE	NTII	FICA	TIO	N IN	FOR	MA	TIO	N									
SECTION I - VETERAN'S IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION  NOTE: You may complete the form online or by hand. If completed by hand, print the information requested in ink, neatly and legibly, insert one letter per box, and completely fill in each applicable circle to help expedite processing of the form.																														
1. VETERAN'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)																														
Jäñe Ø Doé																														
2. SOCIAL	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER  3. VA FILE NUMBER (If applicable)  4. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)																													
1 2	3	_	4 5	<u> </u>		6 7	7 8	9			9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2			1	2	_	3	1	_	1	9	6	9
5. VA INSURANCE POLICY NUMBER (If applicable)																														
9 8	7	6	5 4	<u>ا</u> 3		2 1	1 1	2	3	4	. 5	6	7	8	9															
6. CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Number, street or rural route, City or P.O. Box, State and ZIP Code and Country)																														
No.& Street 123 Somestreet																														
Apt./Unit Number City Sometown																														
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		H			_		· —	Oity		,		COW			_					_			_							
State/Province Country US ZIP Code/Postal Code 66002 -																														
O I AM HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS																														
7. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)																														
5 5 5 — 8 0 0 — 1 1 1 1 Enter International Phone Number (If applicable)																														
8. E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional)																														
josie@example.com																														
SECTION II - CLAIMANT'S IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION (If other than veteran)																														
9. CLAIMANT'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)																														
10. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (If applicable)  11. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY) (If applicable)																														
		]_		□-	- [	$\top$									╗.	_ [	Т	٦_												
12. CURRE	12. CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Number, street or rural route, City or P.O. Box, State and ZIP Code and Country)																													
No. &		Т				Τ	П														Т	Т					Т	Т	Τ	Τ
Street		$\vdash$		$\dashv$	_	_	1		_												÷	+	$\pm$	_			_	$\pm$	1	
Apt./Unit N	lumbe			$\perp$				City																						
State/Province Country ZIP Code/Postal Code — —																														
13. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)																														
Enter International Phone Number (If applicable)																														
14. E-MAIL	ADDR	ESS (	Optiona	.l)																										
												ION																		
15. SELECTOR			_ 、 ,			•		,,			_	mplete FIDU						96 for e ATION	ach I		_	, ,		ᄓᄔᄋᆚ	=Δι Τ	ΉΔΓ	MINIC	ISTR	ATIO!	N
			<ul><li>● COMPENSATION ○ PENSION/SURVIVORS BENEFITS ○ FIDUCIARY ○ EDUCATION ○ VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION</li><li>○ VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT ○ LOAN GUARANTY ○ LIFE INSURANCE ○ NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION</li></ul>																NCE		_									

VA FORM APR 2021 **20-0996** Page 3

SECTION IV - OPTIONAL INFORMAL CONFERENCE										
16. YOU OR YOUR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE MAY REQUEST AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE WITH THE HIGHER-LEVEL REVIEWER FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF POINTING OUT ERRORS OF FACT OR LAW IN THE PRIOR DECISION. (VA will only conduct one informal conference by telephonic communication associated with this request for Higher-Level Review.)										
16A. I WOULD LIKE AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE. I understand electing an informal conference is optional and may delay a decision.										
16B. IF YOU SELECTED THE BOX ABOVE, VA will make two attempts to contact you OR your representative to schedule the informal conference. Contact attempts will be between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time. INDICATE ONE PREFERENCE:										
© Call me between 8:00 a.m 12:00 p.m. ET										
	between 12:00 p.m 4:30 p.m. ET									
17. IF YOU WOULD LIKE VA TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE'S CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW.										
17A. REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME (First, Last)  Helen  Holly										
ITB. REPRESENTATIVE'S TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)										
+6-555-800-11	11									
17C. REPRESENTATIVE'S E-MAIL ADDRESS	7									
SECTION V - SOC/SSOC OPT-IN FROM LEGACY APPEAL										
18. By marking the circle below, I ELECT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MODERNIZED REVIEW SYSTEM for the following Supplemental Statement of the Case (SSOC). I am withdrawing the eligible appeal issues listed in 19A in their entire legacy appeals system. I understand I cannot return to the legacy appeals system for the issue(s) withdrawn. TO O	ety, and any associated hearing requests, from the									
OPT-IN FROM SOC/SSOC										
NOTE: Add the date of the SOC or SSOC in block 19B for all appeal issues being withdrawn.										
SECTION VI - ISSUES FOR HIGHER-LEVEL REVIE  19. INDICATE EACH ISSUE DECIDED BY VA FOR WHICH YOU ARE REQUESTING A HIGHER-LEVEL REVIEW. RO										
issues. For each issue, identify the date of VA's most recent decision on the issue. You may attach additional sheet each additional sheet. <b>IMPORTANT</b> : You <b>may only</b> list issues for the benefit type selected in Section III. A separa	ts, if necessary - include your name and file number on									
19A. SPECIFIC ISSUE(S) OF DISAGREEMENT (REQUIRED)	19B. DATE OF VA DECISION NOTIFICATION LETTER (REQUIRED)									
Example 1: Service connection for left knee Example 2: Earlier effective date for hearing loss	MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY									
Example 3: Reimbursement for non-VA emergency care Example 4: Denial of entitlement to VR&E benefits and services	MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY									
Example 5: Entitlement to Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance	MM/DD/YYYY									
tinnitus	SOC/SSOC Date: 08-01-2020									
	0 1 - 0 1 - 1 9 0 0									
left knee										
right knee										
	0 1 - 0 3 - 1 9 0 0									
PTSD										
	0 1 _ 0 4 _ 1 9 0 0									
	0 1 = 0 4 = 1 9 0 0									
Traumatic Brain Injury										
	0 1 - 0 5 - 1 9 0 0									
right shoulder										
	0 1 - 0 6 - 1 9 0 0									

VA FORM 20-0996, APR 2021 Page 4

SECTION VI - ISSUES FOR HIGHER-LEVEL REVIEW (Continued)									
19A. SPECIFIC ISSUE(S) OF DISAGREEMENT (REQUIRED)	19B. DATE OF VA DECISION NOTIFICATION LETTER (REQUIRED)								
SECTION VII - CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE									
<b>NOTE:</b> This section is <b>MANDATORY</b> and completion is required to process your claim unless accompar <i>Certification</i> or Section VIII is completed.	nied by VA Form 21-0972, Alternate Signer								
I CERTIFY the statements on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.									
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	20B. DATE SIGNED								
Jäñe ø Doé - Signed by digital authentication to api.va.gov	0 2 - 0 3 - 2 0 2 1								
SECTION VIII - AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SIGN	ATURE								
I CERTIFY the statements on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.									
NOTE: A representative's signature will not be accepted unless at the time of submission of this request a valid VA Form 21-22, Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative, or VA Form 21-22a, Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative, indicating the									
appropriate representative is of record with VA or included with this application.  21A. NAME OF VA AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (First, Last)									
ZIA. NAIVIE OF VA AUTHORIZED REFRESENTATIVE (FIISI, Last)									
OUR CIONATURE OF VA AUTHORIZED DEPOSEDITATIVE (C)	DATE CIONED								
21B. SIGNATURE OF VA AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (Sign in ink)	21C. DATE SIGNED								
<b>PENALTY:</b> The law provides severe penalties which include a fine, imprisonment, or both, for the willful s material fact, knowing it to be false.	submission of any statement or evidence of a								
PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than									
Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enfor epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which									
interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status,	and personnel administration) as identified in								
the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is voluntary.	uon and ⊑mpioyment Records - VA,								

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to determine entitlement to benefits (38 U.S.C. 501). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 15 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete the 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.

Page 5 VA FORM 20-0996, APR 2021