

# Am I eligible to use this tool?

You're eligible to use this tool if you got a decision notice from us confirming your disability rating and it's 30% or higher.

View your VA disability rating

# How do I add or change a dependent on my VA disability benefits?

You could receive additional disability compensation for a spouse, child or parent, if you are eligible for VA disability compensation, and you have a combined disability rating of at least 30%. Adding a dependent may make you eligible to receive a higher compensation payment (also called a benefit rate).

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Learn about adding dependents to your VA disability benefits

To file a claim for additional disability compensation for a child or spouse, you can submit an Application Request To Add And/Or Remove Dependents (WA Form 21-686c) at the link below. Note that you may need to provide more information or forms along with your claim.



# To file a claim for additional disability compensation for a dependent parent

If you're directly caring for a parent, and their income and net worth are below a certain amount, they may be

- considered a dependent. You'll need to fill out and submit a Statement of Dependency of Parent(s) (VA Form

21P 509 by mail or fax

#### Download VA Form 21P-509 (PDF)

## If you're claiming your child who became permanently disabled before they turned 18

You'll need to turn in all private medical records relating to the child's disabilities with your application. You can upload these documents when you submit VA From 21-686c at the link above.

## If your dependent is a child who's between 18 and 23 years old and attending school full time

You'll need to submit a Request for Approval of School Attendance (VA Form 21-674) with your application. This form can be completed by checking the box, "Claim benefits for your child 18 to 23 years old who'll be attending school" option in the link above.

# Can I file a claim for additional disability compensation for a child or pouse by mail or fax?

Ves, but we encourage you to file online. The online process is simple, and you can upload your supporting documents along with your claim. When you file your claim online, we recognize the day you start the online claim process as the date VA received your claim. This means that if we decide you're eligible for additional disability compensation, we'll pay you back to this date.

If you can't, or don't want to file online, you can file a claim for additional disability compensation by mail or fax using the forms below.

For a spouse or a child under 18 years of age, you'll need to fill out an Application Request To Add And/Or Remove Dependents (VA Form 21-686c).

#### Download VA Form 21-686c (PDF)

For a child who's between 18 and 23 years old and attending school full time, you'll need to fill out both VA Form 21-686c and a Request for Approval of School Attendance (VA Form 21-674).

Download VA Form 21-586c (PDF) Download WA Form 21-674 (PDF)

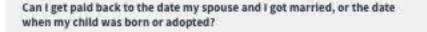
#### Mail your completed form(s) to:

Department of Veterans Affairs Evidence Intake Center PO Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547-4444

#### Or fax them to:

844 531-7817 if you live in the U.S., or +1-248-524-4260 if you live outside of the U.S.

#### More questions about adding dependents to your VA disability benefit



We may pay you back to the date of your marriage or the birth or adoption of your child if you meet all of the requirements listed below.

#### All of these must be true. You:

- Had already received a combined disability rating of at least 30% at the time of the marriage, birth, or adoption, and
- File your claim for additional disability compensation for the dependent within a year of the marriage, birth, or adoption, and
- · Respond within a year to our request for any more information or evidence needed to confirm your claim

If it's been more than one year since you got married or had or adopted a child, we may not pay you back to the date of the marriage, birth, or adoption. Instead, we may pay you back only to the date

we received your claim for additional disability for the dependent or, in some cases, up to a year

#### What if my spouse is also a Veteran with a combined disability rating of at least 30%? Can we both receive additional disability compensation?

If you and your spouse are both Veterans with a combined disability rating of at least 30%, you canboth receive additional disability compensation for each other and for your children.

You should know: It'll take us longer to process your claim if your spouse is also a Veteran. But if you file your claim online, and we decide you're eligible for additional disability compensation for your dependent(s), we'll pay you back to the date you started the online claim process.

#### What happens if I get divorced or need to remove a dependent?

To remove a dependent, you can submit an Application Request To Add And/Or Remove Dependents (VA Form 21-686c) to ask us to stop paying additional disability compensation for a spouse or child. We'll need more time to process a request that involves a child than a request that involves a spouse, but the online process is still much faster than submitting a paper request.

If you get divorced, you'll want to notify us right away. You don't need to send or upload supporting documents in this case.

This will help to make sure we don't continue paying you additional disability compensation for your former spouse and, if applicable, stepchildren after the divorce. If we continue paying you benefits that you're not eligible for, we may withhold money from future payments until you've paid us back.

Do I need to ask VA to stop paying me additional disability compensation for my child when they turn 18?

No. We'll track your child's age based on the date of birth you give us when you submit your claim. When your child turns 18, we'll stop paying additional disability compensation for them unless you let us know they're enrolled in school full time.

# What if I have more questions?

If you have questions about your benefits or accessing this tool, you can call us at 800-827-1000. We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.

#### Veteran Programs and Services

Hameless Veterans
Women Vetecans
Minority Veterans
215D
Mental Health
Adaptive Sports and Special Event
National Resource Directory

#### More VA Resources

Eind a VA Form Get VA Mobile Apps Careers at VA Doing Business with VA Grants Management Services Find a VA Health Care Provider Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) State Veterans Affairs Offices Print Your VA Welcome Kit

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# In Crisis? Get Help Now Veteran Crisis Line **Contact Us**

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