



VA DATE STAMP
DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

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 <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/>.

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)

[illegible]

2. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

W W W – W W – W W W W

3. VA FILE NUMBER (If applicable)

WWWWWWWWWW

4. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)

$$\boxed{3} \boxed{1} - \boxed{1} \boxed{2} - \boxed{1} \boxed{9} \boxed{6} \boxed{9}$$

5. VA INSURANCE POLICY NUMBER (If applicable)

[illegible]

6. CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Number, street or rural route, City or P.O. Box, State and ZIP Code and Country)

[illegible]

Apt./Unit Number City

State/Province	N	Y	Country	U	S	ZIP Code/Postal Code	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	-				
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☒ I AM HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

7. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

			-			-					Enter International Phone Number (If applicable)	+WWW-WWWWWW
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8. E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional)

See attached page for veteran email

SECTION II - CLAIMANT'S IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION (If other than veteran)

9. CLAIMANT'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)

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10. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (If applicable)

W W W - W W - W W W W

11. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY) (If applicable)

0	5	-	0	8	-	1	9	7	2
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12. CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS (Number, street or rural route, City or P.O. Box, State and ZIP Code and Country)

[illegible]

Apt./Unit Number City

State/Province Country ZIP Code/Postal Code

13. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

Enter International Phone Number (If applicable) +WWW-WWWWWW

14. E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional)

See attached page for claimant email

SECTION III - BENEFIT TYPE

15. **SELECT ONLY ONE** (If you file for multiple benefit types, you must complete a separate VA Form 20-0996 for each benefit type.)

☐ COMPENSATION ☐ PENSION/DIC/SURVIVORS BENEFITS ☐ FIDUCIARY ☒ EDUCATION ☐ VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
☐ VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT ☐ LOAN GUARANTY ☐ LIFE INSURANCE ☐ NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

SECTION IV - OPTIONAL INFORMAL CONFERENCE	
<p>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.)</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> 16A. I WOULD LIKE AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE. I understand electing an informal conference is optional and may delay a decision.</p>	
<p>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:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Call me between 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Call my representative between 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET</p> </div> <div> <p><input type="radio"/> Call me between 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Call my representative between 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET</p> </div> </div>	
<p>17. IF YOU WOULD LIKE VA TO CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE'S CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW.</p>	
<p>17A. REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME (First, Last)</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 40%;"> <p>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 40%;"> <p>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p> </div> </div>	
<p>17B. REPRESENTATIVE'S TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30%;"> <p>XXX - XXX - XXXX</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30%;"> <p>+WWW - XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p> </div> </div>	
<p>17C. REPRESENTATIVE'S E-MAIL ADDRESS</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 100%;"> <p>See attached page for representative email</p> </div>	
SECTION V - ISSUES FOR HIGHER-LEVEL-REVIEW	
<p>18. If you are responding to a Statement of the Case (SOC) or a Supplemental Statement of the Case (SSOC): By submitting this form, I agree to participate in the modernized review system for the following issues decided in a SOC or SSOC. I am withdrawing the eligible appeal issues listed in 18A in their entirety, and any associated hearing requests, from the legacy appeals system. I understand I cannot return to the legacy appeals system for the issue(s) withdrawn.</p> <p>INDICATE EACH ISSUE DECIDED BY VA FOR WHICH YOU ARE REQUESTING A HIGHER-LEVEL REVIEW. Refer to your decision notice(s) for a list of adjudicated issues. For each issue, identify the date of VA's most recent decision on the issue. You may attach additional sheets, if necessary - include your name and file number on each additional sheet. IMPORTANT: You may only list issues for the benefit type selected in Section III. A separate form is required for each benefit type.</p>	
<p>18A. SPECIFIC ISSUE(S) OF DISAGREEMENT (REQUIRED)</p>	<p>18B. DATE OF VA DECISION NOTIFICATION LETTER (REQUIRED)</p>
<p>Example 1: Service connection for left knee Example 2: Earlier effective date for hearing loss Example 3: Reimbursement for non-VA emergency care Example 4: Denial of entitlement to VR&E benefits and services Example 5: Entitlement to Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance</p>	<p>MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY</p>
<p>123456789</p> <p>Area of Disagreement: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p>	<p>SOC/SSOC Date: 04-30-2020</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 0 1 - 0 1 - 1 9 0 0 </p>
<p>left eye</p> <p>Area of Disagreement: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> 0 1 - 0 2 - 1 9 0 0 </p>
<p>right eye</p> <p>Area of Disagreement: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> 0 1 - 0 3 - 1 9 0 0 </p>
<p>left ear</p> <p>Area of Disagreement: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p>	<p>SOC/SSOC Date: 05-15-2019</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 0 1 - 0 4 - 1 9 0 0 </p>
<p>right ear</p> <p>Area of Disagreement: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> 0 1 - 0 5 - 1 9 0 0 </p>
<p>migraines</p> <p>Area of Disagreement: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> 0 1 - 0 6 - 1 9 0 0 </p>
<p>left knee</p> <p>Area of Disagreement: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> 0 1 - 0 7 - 1 9 0 0 </p>

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