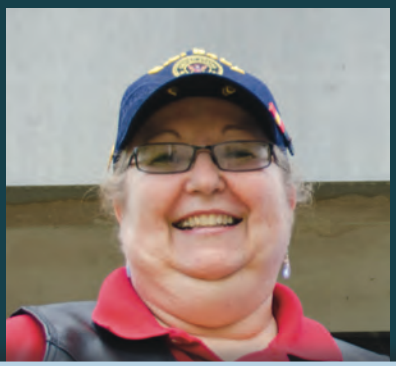
VA STANDARD FORMS FOR CLAIMS AND APPEALS



3 EASY WAYS TO FILE CLAIMS

1. ONLINE THROUGH eBENEFITS.VA.GOV
2. WITH A VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION (VSO)
3. USING VA STANDARD FORMS

VA is streamlining how Veterans and Survivors apply for benefits.

VA encourages Veterans to file their disability compensation claims online through the eBenefits portal. As of March 24, 2015, Survivors and Veterans who are not filing online must use standard forms to identify the benefit they are seeking. This gives Veterans and Survivors faster, more accurate claim decisions.

HOW DOES FILING ONLINE, WORKING WITH A VSO, OR USING STANDARD FORMS HELP VETERANS?

- SIMPLIFIES INFORMATION PROVIDED TO VA
- PROVIDES ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION UP FRONT TO BEGIN PROCESSING THE CLAIM
- DELIVERS ACCURATE CLAIM DECISIONS FASTER
- HELPS ELIMINATE THE CLAIMS BACKLOG

FILE COMPENSATION CLAIMS ONLINE WITH eBenefits

www.ebenefits.va.gov

IF NOT FILING ELECTRONICALLY, USE VA'S STANDARD APPLICATION FORMS:

VA FORM 21-526EZ
FOR VETERAN'S COMPENSATION

ALSO ON **eBENEFITS**

VA FORM 21-527EZ
FOR VETERAN'S PENSION

VA FORM 21-534EZ
FOR SURVIVOR'S DIC, DEATH PENSION, AND/OR ACCRUED BENEFITS

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

OPTIONAL "INTENT TO FILE" PROCESS

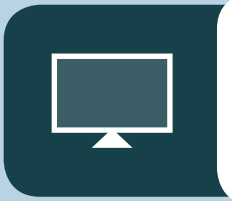
For Veterans and Survivors who need additional time to gather their claim information, but want to save the earliest possible effective date, VA is using a new "intent to file" process. A Veteran or Survivor, or his or her authorized representative, can submit minimal information to establish a potential effective date for benefits and then take up to one year to gather evidence and submit the required standard form.

Remember: Only one "intent to file" per general benefit can be active at any given time, and only one standard claim form will correspond to the active "intent to file."

"INTENT TO FILE" OPTIONS

WITH A VSO

By working closely with an accredited Veterans Service Officer (VSO) to file electronically through the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (SEP)



ELECTRONICALLY (VETERANS COMPENSATION ONLY)

By initiating and completing the personal information page and saving (but not submitting) the online application for compensation through eBenefits

BY PHONE/IN PERSON

By calling the VA National Call Center at 1-800-827-1000 or visiting a public contact representative at a VA Regional Office

BY PAPER

By completing VA Form 21-0966, *Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension and/or DIC*, and mailing or faxing to VA

If a Veteran or Survivor chooses to submit an "intent to file," he or she may complete the standard claim form electronically or via a paper application, regardless of what "intent to file" method is used. VA encourages Veterans to file their compensation claims online through the eBenefits web portal.

Veterans and Survivors are encouraged to work with a Veterans Service Officer who can file the information online through the **Stakeholder Enterprise Portal**. Forms may be downloaded at **www.va.gov/vaforms.** Claimants may call **1-800-827-1000** to have the correct form sent to their homes. Completed forms should be mailed or faxed back to VA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit www.benefits.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000