VETERANS BENEFITS CLAIMS PROCESS

Standard Claims Process (All claims are unique. The following is meant to be used only as a general guideline.)

1. GET EXPERIENCED HELP	2. COLLECT EVIDEN	CE	3. SUBMIT CLAIM		4. VA REVIEWS CLAIM		> 5. VA RATING DECISION
Locate your VA regional office online at va.gov/directory. Find a Veteran's Service Officer (VSO) at NACVSO.org, DAV.org, VFW.org, or LEGION.org. Work with your VSO to determine your eligibility. Work with your VSO to determine the best claim type.	treatment and current medical records. 's Service at Have a doctor complete your Disability Benefits Questionnaire(s) (DBQs). A VA appointment may be scheduled once claim is filed. r VSO to Obtain "buddy statements" if needed.		Determine how you want your claim to be processed: as a Traditional Claim, a Fully Developed Claim (FDC), or an Intent to File. Register for online claims at eBenefits.gov and submit your claim. There is no cost to register or process your claim. - OR - Have your VSO help you complete and submit your claim. You have 1 YEAR from your eBenefits registration or Intent to File to finalize your claim.		The VA will review your claim and determine if additional information is needed to determine your rating. Report for any Compensation & Pension (C&P) examination Watch your mail for requests from the VA for additional information Continue to keep your existing medical appointments. It can take up to 1 YEAR for the VA to process evidence and issue a Rating Decision.	n ns.	VA ISSUES RATING DECISION The VA issues a Rating Decision once they determine, if any, your service connection, percent of disability, and effective date. The VA processes your claim for payments as of the effective date and any back pay owed. ACCEPT the rating decision; your case will be completed. OR - APPEAL if you are not satisfied. See the appeals process below.
Claim Appeals Process (At this point, you may consider hiring a lawyer experienced in veterans benefits appeals. This is not required.)							
6. APPEAL TO THE REGIO BOARD OF VETERANS	NAL VA OFFICE/ APPEALS	7. COU VETE	RT OF APPEALS FOR :RANS' CLAIMS (CAVC)	8.	FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS		9. APPEAL TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT
You have 1 YEAR from the VA Ramake your appeal and file a Notice Continue to keep your existing a Work with your VSO to file a Nowith the VA Regional Office. You must elect to have your claby the Board of Veterans Affaris or a VA Decision Review Officer BVA PROCESS The BVA will review your case. BVA ISSUES DECISION You can ACCEPT the decision -OR-Ask the BVA to RECONSIDER -OR-APPEAL to CAVC.	ating Decision to the of Disagreement. medical appointments. tice of Disagreement (NOD) im reviewed either to (BVA) in Washington	You had BVA de B	ve 120 DAYS from the ecision to file your appeal. e to keep your existing appointments. th your VSO to fill out the Form 1 (Notice of Appeal) and DIRECTLY TO THE COURT. need a CAVC accredited attative or attorney to assist the court the \$50 fee to file, -OR-ation of Financial Hardhip wided by the CAVC. // Will review your case. RT ISSUES DECISION ACCEPT -OR- APPEAL to the	Cormed Find hire vete this The you	ou have a limited time from the AVC decision to file your appeal to be Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, you choose to appeal, you should contact a lawyer within 10 days. Intinue to keep your existing dical appointments. In a lawyer experienced in earns benefits appeals for selvel of appeal. In a Federal Circuit will review in case. COURT ISSUES DECISION In a can ACCEPT -OR- APPEAL the U.S. Supreme Court.		You have a limited time from the Federal Circuit decision to file your appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. If you choose to appeal, you should contact a lawyer within 10 days. Continue to keep your existing medical appointments. Find a lawyer. You will need to hire a lawyer experienced in veterans benefits appeals for this level of appeal. The U.S. Supreme Court may or may not review your case, or may issue a denial. COURT ISSUES DECISION