

Expedited Processing of Veteran's 100 Percent Disability Claims



The Social Security Administration provides expedited processing of disability claims filed by veterans who have a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent & Total (P&T).

What do I need to know about the Veterans Affairs and Social Security programs?

Both Social Security and Veterans Affairs pay disability benefits to qualifying people, but their programs, processes, and criteria for receiving benefits are different. A Veterans Affairs compensation rating of 100 percent P&T doesn't guarantee that you'll receive Social Security disability benefits. To receive disability benefits from Social Security, a person must have a severe impairment that's expected to last at least one year or to result in death. The impairment must be so severe that the person would be unable to perform any substantial work.

NOTE: Receiving Veterans Affairs compensation won't affect your Social Security benefits.

As a veteran rated 100 percent P&T, how do I receive expedited processing from Social Security?

You must apply for Social Security benefits. There are three ways in which you can apply.

- Apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov;
- Call our toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213**. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, call our toll-free TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**; or
- Call or visit your local Social Security office.

What should I do to receive expedited processing of my Social Security disability application?

If you're a disabled veteran rated 100 percent P&T, you must:

- Identify yourself as a "veteran rated 100 percent P and T" when you apply for

benefits. If you apply in person or over the phone, tell the Social Security representative that you are a veteran rated 100 percent P and T. If you apply online, enter "Veteran 100% P&T" in the "Remarks" section of the application; and

- Provide Social Security with your Veterans Affairs notification letter which verifies your rating.

How will Social Security expedite my disability claim?

After Social Security identifies you as a veteran rated 100 percent P&T, we'll treat your claim as a high priority workload and rush it through the application process in our field offices, our state Disability Determination Services, and the various levels of appeals.

How long does the process take?

The length of time Social Security takes to make a disability decision depends on several factors, but primarily on:

- The nature of your disability;
- How quickly we get medical evidence from your doctor or other medical sources; and
- Whether it's necessary to send you for a medical examination to get evidence to support your claim.

You can assist in the process by having the required information on hand when you apply.

What about veterans that live abroad?

We recognize that many of our veterans live abroad. We have similar processes in place to expedite their claims.

For more information

You can find more information at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm.

