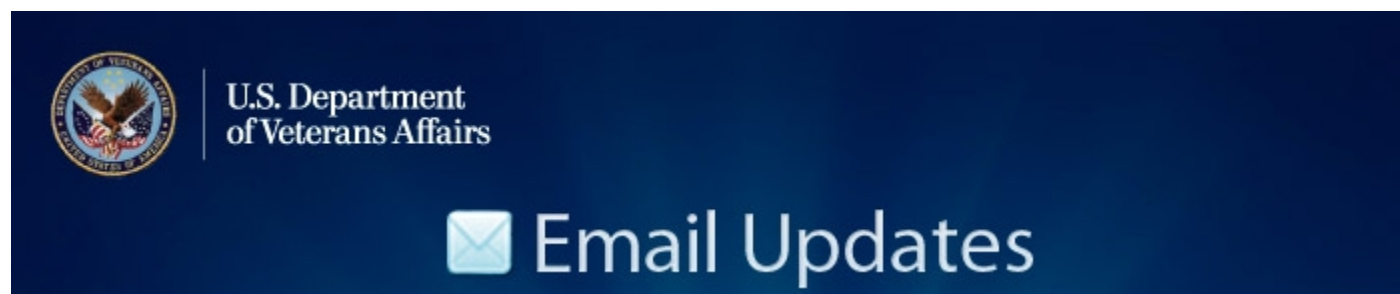

Subject: Thinking of filing a claim with VA?

From: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (veteransaffairs@public.govdelivery.com)

To: vnvvetlester@yahoo.com;

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:19 PM



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working to make filing claims and appeals as fast and easy as possible. Beginning Tuesday, March 24, 2015, claims and appeals must be filed using the appropriate form. Standardizing forms will ease frustration among claimants, make claims processing more efficient and help VA reach more accurate decisions.

There are three major actions that will require a specific form or standardized process: Intent to File, claims applications, and Notice of Disagreement.

When filing a formal claim, the following forms should be completed and submitted to VA either electronically via [eBenefits](http://ebenefits.va.gov) (ebenefits.va.gov) or the [Stakeholder Enterprise Portal](http://sep.va.gov) (sep.va.gov), or by mailing the completed paper form to VA:

- For disability benefits, applicants must now use [VA Form 21-526EZ](#), Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.
- To apply for needs-based pension, use [VA Form 21-527EZ](#), Application for Pension. To file a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), survivor's pension, and accrued benefits, claimants should complete [VA Form 21-534EZ](#), Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits .

Applicants who are not ready to file a claim for disability, but wish to preserve a date of claim while gathering evidence and completing the necessary application form should use one of the following three methods to communicate an intent to file a claim to VA:

- 1) electronically via [eBenefits](http://ebenefits.va.gov) (ebenefits.va.gov) or the [Stakeholder Enterprise Portal](http://sep.va.gov) (sep.va.gov),
- 2) mailing VA Form 21-0966, *Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension and/or DIC*, or
- 3) over the phone with a [VA call center](#) representative.

Finally, Veterans filing a Notice of Disagreement with a compensation decision should use [VA Form 21-0958](#), Notice of Disagreement. Veterans and their representatives currently use the form on an optional basis. However, beginning March 24, 2015, Veterans must use this form when VA provides the form with a decision notice letter. Veterans and survivors will not be required to use a standardized notice of disagreement form for other types of claims (i.e., pension or survivors benefits) at this time.

If you are unable to download these forms from va.gov/vaforms/, call 800-827-1000 to have the correct form sent to your home.

Requiring standard forms will help VA more quickly identify what the applicant is claiming and gather the evidence required to process the claim or appeal. Standardized forms are a key component of VA's transformation, which will help achieve the Department's goal to eliminate the backlog in 2015.

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If you are in crisis and need immediate help, please call 1 800 273 8255 and (PRESS 1) or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>.

Please remember the only secure way to ask personal questions is at <https://iris.custhelp.com>.

Explore VA benefits at explore.va.gov

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