Introduction to VA Forms

Trainee Handout

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Objectives

After this training you should be able to:

* Explain the components of the Standard Claims and Appeals Form Rule for all claims received on and after March 24, 2015
* Identify the acceptable prescribed benefit form to file a claim

References

* [38 CFR 3.151, Claims for disability benefits](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=ad275643432556b9dda942343fb89296&mc=true&node=pt38.1.3&rgn=div58" \l "se38.1.3_1151)
* [38 CFR 3.150, Forms to be furnished](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&SID=549cda86648188a6a068def5530850c9&rgn=div5&view=text&node=38:1.0.1.1.4&idno=38)
* [38 CFR 3.155, How to file a claim](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=ad275643432556b9dda942343fb89296&mc=true&node=pt38.1.3&rgn=div58#se38.1.3_1155)
* [38 CFR 3.155(b), Intent to File a Claim](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=ad275643432556b9dda942343fb89296&mc=true&node=pt38.1.3&rgn=div58#se38.1.3_1155)
* [M21-1, Part III, Subpart ii, Chapter 2, Section B, Benefit Programs and Types of Claims](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014119/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-ii-Chapter-2-Section-B-Claims-for-Disability-Compensation-and-or-Pension-and-Claims-for-Survivors-Benefits)
* [M21-1, Part III, Subpart ii, Chapter 2, Section C, Informal Claims Received Prior to March 24, 2015, Communication of an Intent to File (ITF), and Requests for Application](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014115/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-ii-Chapter-2-Section-C-Informal-Claims-Received-Prior-to-March-24-2015-Communication-of-an-Intent-to-File-ITF-and-Requests-for-Application)
* [M21-1, Part III, Subpart ii, Chapter 3, Section C, What Constitutes a Complete VA Form 21-22 or 21-22a](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014125/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-ii-Chapter-3-Section-C-System-Updates#4e)

**Standard Claims and Appeals Form Rule**

The four major components of the “Standard Claims and Appeals Form” rule include:

* Requiring all claimants to submit claims on a standard VA-prescribed form
* Eliminating 38 CFR 3.157
* Creating an intent to file (ITF) process, and
* Using a Standard Notice of Disagreement form.

Claims received before March 24, 2015 are not required to be submitted on prescribed forms.

VA stopped accepting informal claims on March 24, 2015. Claimants desiring the benefit of filing an informal claim must now communicate to VA “intent to file” a claim.

The ITF is significant because it is an “effective date placeholder.” This means that the date of receipt of the informal claim or ITF, not the date we receive the substantially complete application, would determine how far back in the past we can grant benefits.

Effective March 24, 2015, VA will only recognize compensation, pension, survivors, and related claims if they are submitted on the required standard forms. The new rule mandates that appellants must use a standard notice of disagreement form, VA 21-0958, Notice of Disagreement, to initiate the appeals process.

The change also eliminates the provisions of 38 CFR 3.157 which allowed various documents other than claims forms to constitute claims, specifically, VA reports of hospitalization or examination and other medical records which could be regarded as informal claims for increase or to reopen a previously denied claim.

VA will recognize an Intent to File (ITF) a claim for benefits if it is submitted on the required VA Form 21-0966, Intent to File, indicating the benefit sought. An Intent to File may be accepted if it is signed by the veteran or authorization representative (POA) on behalf of the Veteran.

Effective March 24, 2015, VA will only accept issues listed on a timely VA Form 21-0958, Notice of Disagreement, if required, as part of the appeal submission for compensation. Any additional evidence or statements suggesting appealed issues will be considered a request for application for a NOD.

A prescribed claim form is not required for requests for

* review based on clear and unmistakable error (CUE)
* reconsideration
* substitution
* a finding of incompetency received from a first or third party, and
* removal of a dependent

**Acceptable Forms**

VA Form 21-526, Veteran’s Application for Compensation and/or Pension, is the prescribed form a claimant must file when the benefit sought is original service connection, new or reopened claim, increased evaluation, temporary total disability rating, or pension.

[M21-1 III.ii.2.B](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014119/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-ii-Chapter-2-Section-B-Claims-for-Disability-Compensation-and-or-Pension-and-Claims-for-Survivors-Benefits#1d) outlines the specific parameters for the required form based upon the benefit sought.

| **If the benefit sought is ...** | **Then the prescribed form is *VA Form* ...** |
| --- | --- |
| service connection (SC) (original) | * [*21-526*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [*21-526c*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526c-ARE.pdf), or * [*21-526EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526ez-ARE.pdf). |
| SC (new or reopened) | * [*21-526*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [*21-526b*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526b-ARE.pdf), *Veterans Supplemental Claim for Compensation* * [*21-526c*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526c-ARE.pdf), or * [*21-526EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526ez-ARE.pdf). |
| increased evaluation or a claim for a permanent and total (P&T) rating | * [*21-526*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [*21-526b*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526b-ARE.pdf) * [*21-526c*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526c-ARE.pdf), or * [*21-526EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526ez-ARE.pdf). |
| temporary total disability rating (paragraph 29 and 30 benefits) | * [*21-526*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [*21-526b*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526b-ARE.pdf), or * [*21-526EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526ez-ARE.pdf).   ***Note***:  Hospitalization reports from VA or military treatment facilities will be accepted as a prescribed form for paragraph 29 and 30 benefits.  ***References***:  For more information on   * scope of   + hospital ratings, see [M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, 2.J](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014579/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-J---Compensation-Under-38-CFR-4.28,-38-CFR-4.29,-and-38-CFR-4.30)   + convalescence ratings, see [M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, 2.J](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014579/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-J---Compensation-Under-38-CFR-4.28,-38-CFR-4.29,-and-38-CFR-4.30), and * claims based on reports of examination or hospitalization, see [M21-1, Part III, Subpart ii, 2.B](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014119/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-ii-Chapter-2-Section-B-Claims-for-Disability-Compensation-and-or-Pension-and-Claims-for-Survivors-Benefits%20-%201d#4). |

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| total disability rating based on individual unemployability (TDIU) | [*21-8940, Veteran’s Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployability*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-8940-ARE.pdf).  TDIU can also be claimed on any of the following *VA Forms*:   * [*21-526*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [*21-526b*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526b-ARE.pdf) * [*21-526c*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526c-ARE.pdf), or * [*21-526EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526ez-ARE.pdf).   ***Note***:  [*VA Form 21-8940*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-8940-ARE.pdf) is not required to claim individual unemployability (IU).  However, submission of [*VA Form 21-8940*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-8940-ARE.pdf) by the Veteran is required in the course of development of the IU claim and for the award of TDIU benefits.  ***References***:  For more information on   * the role of [*VA Form 21-8940*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-8940-ARE.pdf) in development of IU claims, see [M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, 2.F.2.b](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014564/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-F---Compensation-Based-on-Individual-Unemployability-(IU)), and * reasonably raised claims for IU, see [M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, 2.F.2.l and m](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014564/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-ii,-Chapter-2,-Section-F---Compensation-Based-on-Individual-Unemployability-(IU)). |
| child incapable of self-support benefits | * [*21-526*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [*21-526b*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526b-ARE.pdf) * [*21-526EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526ez-ARE.pdf) * [*21-686c*, *Declaration of Status of Dependents*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-686c-ARE.pdf) * [*21P-527*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527-ARE.pdf) * [*21P-527EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527EZ-ARE.pdf) * [*21-534*, *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child (Including Death Compensation if Applicable)*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-534-ARE.pdf) * [*21P-534EZ, Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf), or * [*21P-534a*, *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by a Surviving Spouse or Child - In-Service Death Only*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534a-ARE.pdf).   ***Note***:  Information about a child incapable of self-support submitted by a Veteran on [*VA Form 21-0538*, *Status of Dependents Questionnaire*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-0538-ARE.pdf), will be accepted as a claim to add the dependent(s) to the Veteran’s award. |

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| Veterans Pension (original) | * [*21-526*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf), or * [*21P-527EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527-ARE.pdf). | |
| Veterans Pension (new) | * [*21-526*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [*21P-527*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527-ARE.pdf), or * [*21P-527EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527-ARE.pdf). * [*21P-0516-1, Pension Eligibility Verification Report (Veteran with No Children)*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0516-1-ARE.pdf) * [*21P-0517-1, Pension Eligibility Verification Report (Veteran with Children)*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0517-1-ARE.pdf) | |
| dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), Survivors Pension and accrued benefits (original) | * [*21-534*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-534-ARE.pdf) * [*21P-534a*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534a-ARE.pdf) * [*21P-534EZ*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf) * [*21P-535,*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-535-ARE.pdf) [*Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s) (Including Accrued Benefits and Death Compensation when Applicable)*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-535-ARE.pdf)*,* * [*21P-601*, *Application for Accrued Amounts Due A Deceased Beneficiary*, for accrued benefits only](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-601-ARE.pdf).   ***Reference***:  For more information on actions to take upon receipt of [*VA Form* *21-4182, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or Death Pension*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-4182-ARE.pdf), see [M21-1, Part IV, Subpart iii, 3.A.3](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014619/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-iii,-Chapter-3,-Section-A---Initial-Awards-to-Dependents). | |
| DIC, Survivors Pension and accrued benefits (new or reopened, as applicable) | * [21-534](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-534-ARE.pdf) * [21P-534a](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534a-ARE.pdf) * [21P-534EZ](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf) * [21P-535](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-535-ARE.pdf) * [21P-601](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-601-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0518-1, Pension Eligibility Verification Report (Surviving Spouse With No Children)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0518-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0519S-1, Pension Eligibility Verification Report (Surviving Spouse With Children)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0519s-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0519C-1, Pension Eligibility Verification Report (Child or Children)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0519C-1-ARE.pdf), or * [21P-0514-1,](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0514-1-ARE.pdf) [*DIC Parent’s Eligibility Verification Report*](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-0514-1-ARE.pdf).   **Reference**:  For more information on actions to take upon receipt of [VA Form21-4182](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-4182-ARE.pdf), see [M21-1, Part IV, Subpart iii, 3.A.3](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014619/M21-1,-Part-IV,-Subpart-iii,-Chapter-3,-Section-A---Initial-Awards-to-Dependents). | |
| income adjustments for running pension awards or to supplement original applications (income/asset/net worth, liberalized legislation) | * [21P-0512S-1, Old Law and Section 306 Eligibility Verification Report (Surviving Spouse)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0512s-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0512V-1, Old Law and Section 306 Eligibility Verification Report (Veteran)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0512V-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0513-1, Old Law and Section 306 Eligibility Verification Report (Children Only)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0513-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0514-1](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0514-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0516-1](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0516-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0517-1](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0517-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0518-1](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0518-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0519C-1](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0519C-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0519S-1](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0519s-1-ARE.pdf) * [21P-8416, Medical Expense Report](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-8416-ARE.pdf) * [21P-8416b, Report of Medical, Legal, and Other Expenses Incident to Recovery for Injury or Death](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-8416b-ARE.pdf) * [21P-0571, Application For Exclusion Of Children’s Income](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-0571-ARE.pdf) * [21-8049, Request for Details of Expenses](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-8049-ARE.pdf) * [21P-4165, Pension Claim Questionnaire for Farm Income](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-4165-ARE.pdf), and * [21P-4185, Report of Income from Property or Business](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-4185-ARE.pdf)   **Exception**:  VA does not require beneficiaries to use a specific form to report a change in income that will result in a decrease in benefits.  A beneficiary may report such changes   * in writing * by telephone, e-mail, or fax, or * through eBenefits. | |
| burial benefits | | [21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21p-530-ARE.pdf). |
| specially adapted housing (SAH) or special housing adaptation (SHA) | * [26-4555, Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-26-4555-ARE.pdf), and * [26-4555c, Veteran/Servicemember's Supplemental Application for Assistance in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-26-4555c-ARE.pdf).   SAH/SHA can also be filed on any of the following VA Forms:   * [21-526](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [21-526b](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526b-ARE.pdf), or * [21-526EZ](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526ez-ARE.pdf).   **Important**:   * SAH/SHA claims and supplemental benefits require   + [VA Form 26-4555](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-26-4555-ARE.pdf), for the award of benefits and can be used as a standalone form for claims, or   + [*VA Form 26-4555c*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-26-4555c-ARE.pdf), for the award of supplemental benefits. The form can also be used as a standalone claims form. * [VA Form 26-4555](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-26-4555-ARE.pdf) or [26-4555c](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-26-4555c-ARE.pdf) is a claim for both SAH and SHA.   + A grant of SAH renders the issue of SHA moot since SAH is the greater benefit.  SHA need not be addressed when SAH is granted.   + If SAH is denied, the rating decision must address both SAH and SHA. | |
| auto allowance | [21-4502, Application for Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-4502-ARE.pdf).  Auto allowance can also be filed on any of the following VA Forms:   * [21-526](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [21-526b](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526b-ARE.pdf), or * [21-526EZ](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526ez-ARE.pdf).   **Important**:  [VA Form 21-4502](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-4502-ARE.pdf) is required for the award of benefits and can be used as a standalone form for auto allowance claims. | |
| special monthly compensation (SMC) for housebound/aid and attendance (A&A) including spousal A&A | * [21-526](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [21-526b](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526b-ARE.pdf) * [21-526EZ](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526ez-ARE.pdf), or * [*21-2680, Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-2680-ARE.pdf).   **Reference**:  For more information on reviewing [VA Form 21-2680](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-2680-ARE.pdf) to identify the benefit sought, see [M21-1, Part III, Subpart ii, 2.B](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014119/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-ii-Chapter-2-Section-B-Claims-for-Disability-Compensation-and-or-Pension-and-Claims-for-Survivors-Benefits%20-%201d#1g). | |
| SMC for housebound/A&A for DIC benefits | * [21-534](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-534-ARE.pdf) * [21P-534EZ](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf) * [*21-2680*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-2680-ARE.pdf) * [21P-535](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-535-ARE.pdf) (Parents DIC only) * [*21-0779*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0779-ARE.pdf) (Nursing Home Patients only)   **Reference**:  For more information on reviewing [VA Form 21-2680](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-2680-ARE.pdf) to identify the benefit sought, see [M21-1, Part III, Subpart ii, 2.B](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014119/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-ii-Chapter-2-Section-B-Claims-for-Disability-Compensation-and-or-Pension-and-Claims-for-Survivors-Benefits%20-%201d#1g). | |
| special monthly pension (SMP) for housebound and/or A&A | * [21-526](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [21P-527EZ](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527EZ-ARE.pdf) * [*21-534*](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-534-ARE.pdf) * [21-0779](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0779-ARE.pdf) (Nursing Home Patients only) * [21P-534EZ](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf), or * [21-2680](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-2680-ARE.pdf).   **Reference**:  For more information on reviewing [VA Form 21-2680](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-2680-ARE.pdf) to identify the benefit sought, see [M21-1, Part III, Subpart ii, 2.B](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000014119/M21-1-Part-III-Subpart-ii-Chapter-2-Section-B-Claims-for-Disability-Compensation-and-or-Pension-and-Claims-for-Survivors-Benefits%20-%201d#1g). | |
| spina bifida | [21-0304, Application for Benefits for Certain Children with Disabilities Born of Vietnam and Certain Korea Service Veterans](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0304-ARE.pdf). | |
| apportionment | [21-0788, Information Regarding Apportionment of Beneficiary’s Award](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0788-ARE.pdf). | |
| dependents | * [21-526](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526-ARE.pdf) * [21P-527](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527-ARE.pdf) (pension only) * [21P-527EZ](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-527EZ-ARE.pdf) (pension only) * [21-534](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-534-ARE.pdf) (survivors only) * [21P-534EZ](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf) (survivors only) * [21-686c](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-686c-ARE.pdf) * [21-674](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-674-ARE.pdf), (all 674-series forms), [Request for Approval of School Attendance, (school children over 18 only)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-674-ARE.pdf), or * [21P-509, Statement of Dependency of Parent(s), (for dependent parent(s) only)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21p-509-ARE.pdf) * [21-4170, Statement of Marital History (for adding a spouse based on a common-law marriage)](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-4170-ARE.pdf), or * [21-0538](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-0538-ARE.pdf) (if submitted as part of the verification process described in [M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 5.K](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000015797/M21-1,-Part-III,-Subpart-iii,-Chapter-5,-Section-K---Verification-of-Marital-Status-and-the-Status-of-Dependents)).   **Important**:  A Veteran may use [VA Form 21-0538](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-0538-ARE.pdf), to **initiate** the process of adding a spouse to his/her award. However, this form contains no sections wherein the Veteran may provide his/her marital history or the marital history of his/her spouse. Without this information, VA cannot determine whether the Veteran and his/her spouse are free to marry. Accordingly, a Veteran in this case must ultimately provide the information contained in [VA Form 21-686c](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-686c-ARE.pdf)  **in addition to** the [VA Form 21-0538](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-0538-ARE.pdf). In accordance with [M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, 5.A.4.h](https://vaww.vrm.km.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_kanew/help/agent/locale/en-US/portal/554400000001034/content/554400000015798/M21-1,-Part-III,-Subpart-iii,-Chapter-5,-Section-A---General-Information-on-Relationship-and-Dependency), this information may be obtained through a phone call to the Veteran.  **Note**:  A [VA Form 21-674](https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-674-ARE.pdf) can be accepted as a standard form for a school child claiming DIC in his or her own right if the child was previously on a surviving spouse’s DIC award. | |

**Common VA Forms**

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| Commonly you will see various forms come through the mail portal, and you will be required to recognize, upload, and route the forms as appropriate. A way to identify [VA Forms](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/) is to review the form number itself. The first two numbers identify the division within VA to which the form belongs.  Some common division numbers you will see are:  10 = Veterans Health Administration  21 = Veterans Benefits Administration  22 = Education  26 = Loan Guaranty  28 = Vocational Rehabilitation  29 = Insurance  Some Common VA Forms you will see are:  **Automobile Allowance or Vehicular Adaptive Equipment Claim**  [VA Form 21-4502 Automobile Allowance or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-4502-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 10-1394 Application for Adaptive Equipment Motor Vehicle](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-1394-fill.pdf)  **CHAMPVA**  [VA Form 10-7959c CHAMPVA Other Health Insurance (OHI) Certification](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-7959c-fill.pdf)  [VA Form 10-10d Application for CHAMPVA Benefits](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-10d-fill.pdf)  **DEPENDENCY**  [VA Form 21-686c Declaration of Status of Dependents](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-686c-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 21-674 Request for Approval of School Attendance](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-674-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 21-674b School Attendance Report](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-674b-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 21P-509 Statement of Dependency Parent](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21P-509-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 21-0788 Information Regarding Apportionment of Beneficiary’s Award](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-0788-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 21-0538 Status of Dependents Questionnaire](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-0538-ARE.pdf)  **EP 290-Retired Pay/Severance Pay**  [VA Form 21-651-Election of Compensation in Lieu of Retired Pay or Waiver of Retired Pay to Secure Compensation from Department of Veterans Affairs](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-651-ARE.pdf)  **Drill Pay**  [VA Form 21-8951-2 Notice Of Waiver Of VA Compensation Or Pension To Receive Military Pay And Allowances](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-8951-2-ARE.pdf)  **Education**  [VA Form 22-1990 Application for VA Education Benefits](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-22-1990-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 22-5490 Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits (Under Provisions of Chapters 33 and 35)](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-22-5490-ARE.pdf) |
| **Finance**  [VA Form 27-0820d Report of Non-Receipt of Payment (Missing Check/Check Tracer Request)](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-27-0820d-ARE.pdf)  **FOIA-Privacy Act**  [SF 180 Form Request Pertaining To Military Records](https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html)  [VA Form 3288 Request For and Consent to Release of Information from Individual’s Records](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA3288.pdf)  [VA Form 10-5345a Individuals' Request for a Copy of Their Own Health Information](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-5345a-fill.pdf)  **VA Form 10-7131/7132**  [VA Form 10-7131 Exchange of Beneficiary Information and Request for Administrative and Adjudicative Action](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-7131-fill.pdf)  Commonly used for :  Outpatient Treatment Records Request  Net Worth Determination  Service Verification  Dental Trauma Rating  [VA Form 10-7132 Status Change](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-7132-fill.pdf)  Commonly used for: VA Hospital Admissions/VA Contact Nursing Homes  **Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaption (SAH/SHA) Grant Claim**  [VA Form 26-4555 Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/Search_action.asp?FormNo=26-4555&tkey=&Action=Search)  **Other Common VA Forms**  [VA Form 21-22 Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant’s Representative](file:///C:\Users\VBADENBauerM\Documents\CA%20guide%20RB%20draft%205-19-16.docx#POAAuth)  [VA Form 20-0986, Eligibility Determination for Character of Discharge (COD) Request Form](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-20-0986-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 21-4140-1 Employment Questionnaire](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-21-4140-1-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 10-10EZ Instructions for Completing Enrollment Application for Health Benefits](http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/1010EZ-fillable.pdf)  [VA Form 28-1900 Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-28-1900-ARE.pdf)  [VA Form 20-0968 Claim for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses](https://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/20/cio/20s5/forms/VBA-20-0968-ARE.pdf) |

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|  | Practical Exercise |

1. The veteran is filing an original claim for service connection on VA Form 21-526EZ. Is this the correct form for an original claim?

1. Yes
2. No

2. Which of the following forms can be used to submit new or reopen claims?

1. VA Form 21-526
2. VA Form 21-526b
3. VA Form 21-526c
4. VA Form 21-526EZ
5. All of the above

3. A veteran submitted a re-opened claim for non-service connected pension on VA Form 21-526. Is this the correct form for a reopened claim for non-service connected pension?

1. Yes
2. No

4. What form can be used to file a claim for Individual Unemployability (IU)?

1. VA Form 21-8940; VA Form 21-526; and VA Form 21-526b
2. VA Form 21-526c; VA Form 21-526EZ
3. A only
4. A and B

5. A widow filed a claim for DIC/Accrued benefits. What are the correct forms to use?

1. VA Form 21-526 and VA Form 21-601
2. VA Form 21P-530 and VA Form 21-534
3. VA Form 21-534 and VA Form 21-601
4. VA Form 21-534EZ and VA Form 21-534