

DRC Checklists

The **Decision Ready Claim (DRC)** initiative offers Veterans and survivors faster decisions on claims for VA benefits. For the purpose of this initiative, Veterans filing a subsequent claim (non-original) for disability compensation and have not had a new period of service since their last claim was decided are eligible. For these Veterans, the following claim types are eligible:

- Increase
- Direct Service-Connection
- Presumptive
 - Conditions due to Herbicide Exposure (specifically listed in 3.309e)
 - Conditions presumptive to Gulf War Exposure (fibromyalgia, FGIDs, and CFS)
 - Conditions based on CFR 3.309a
 - ALS based on CFR 3.318
- Secondary Service-Connection (to include pre-existing and Allen)
- Pre-Discharge (89 days or less until discharge) (can be original)
- Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

At this time, the following claims are excluded:

Compensation and Pension Claims		
1151 and/or tort claims	already pending rating claim (not BDD)	chapter 18 benefits
claims based on exposure in Camp Lejeune (S/C)	claims for previously denied condition	claims for PTSD (S/C)
claims for TBI (S/C)	claims involving ADT/IADT	claims involving non-Veteran beneficiaries
conditions at schedular maximum evaluation	claims signed solely by a VSO representative	conditions subject to proposed reductions
freestanding claims for SMC	former POW	Gulf War Environment Hazard claims (S/C)
Gulf War undiagnosed illness claims	incarcerated Veterans	individual unemployability
pension and/or special monthly pension	presumptive conditions not listed under 3.309(a) or (e)	restricted-access claims

Pre-Discharge Claims

claims for a Gulf War Undiagnosed Illness (S/C)*	claims for PTSD (S/C)*	claims for TBI (S/C)*
claims requiring a character of discharge decision	pregnant Veteran	Veteran is currently enrolled in the IDES program
Veteran is hospitalized in a VA or military facility		
<p><i>*unless evidence of an in-service diagnosis is provided*</i> <i>**all Compensation exclusions still apply to Pre-Discharge claims unless otherwise noted on this slide**</i></p>		

Death Benefits

accrued benefits	burial benefits	in-service death
parental DIC	spousal aid and attendance	spousal housebound benefits
survivor's pension		

INCREASE CLAIMS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- VA Form 526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits**
- Disability Benefits Questionnaire(s) (DBQs) – select all that apply**
 - Private Provider DBQ(s) attached**
 - DBQ(s) completed by VA medical facility (DBQ confirmation sheet attached)**
 - DBQ(s) is/are present within VBMS (list document number in Direct Upload)**

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Private treatment records (related to claimed disabilities only)**
- VA medical records (related to claimed disabilities only)**
 - Present within VBMS (list document number in Direct Upload)**
- Military Treatment Facility (related to claimed disabilities only)**
 - Present within VBMS (list document number in Direct Upload)**
- Vet Center Records (related to claimed disabilities only)**
 - Present within VBMS (list document number in Direct Upload)**
- VA Form 4138, Statement in Support of Claim**
- VA Form 686c, Declaration of Status of Dependents**
- VA Form 21-674, Request for Approval of School Attendance**
- Marriage certificate**
- Divorce decree**
- Birth certificate / Adoption papers**
- Other: _____**

DIRECT SERVICE-CONNECTION CLAIMS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- VA Form 526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits**
- In-Service Event**
 - Evidence attached
 - Evidence is present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Current Condition**
 - Evidence attached
 - Evidence is present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Indication of Association**
- Disability Benefits Questionnaire(s) (DBQs) – select all that apply**
 - DBQ(s) completed by VA medical facility (DBQ confirmation sheet attached)
 - DBQ(s) is/are present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Private treatment records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
- VA medical records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Military Treatment Facility (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Vet Center Records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- VA Form 4138, Statement in Support of Claim**
- VA Form 686c, Declaration of Status of Dependents**
- VA Form 21-674, Request for Approval of School Attendance**
- Marriage certificate**
- Divorce decree**
- Birth certificate / Adoption papers**
- Other: _____**

PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- VA Form 526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits**
- Exposure Event or Manifestation**
 - Evidence attached
 - Evidence is present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Current Condition**
 - Evidence attached
 - Evidence is present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Disability Benefits Questionnaire(s) (DBQs) – select all that apply**
 - Private Provider DBQ(s) attached
 - DBQ(s) completed by VA medical facility (DBQ confirmation sheet attached)
 - DBQ(s) is/are present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Private treatment records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)
- VA medical records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Military Treatment Facility (*related to claimed disabilities only*)
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Vet Center Records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- VA Form 4138, *Statement in Support of Claim*
- VA Form 686c, *Declaration of Status of Dependents*
- VA Form 21-674, *Request for Approval of School Attendance*
- Marriage certificate
- Divorce decree
- Birth certificate / Adoption papers
- Other: _____

SECONDARY SERVICE-CONNECTION

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- VA Form 526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits**
- Current Condition**
 - Evidence attached
 - Evidence is present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Indication of Association (to a S/C condition)**
- Disability Benefits Questionnaire(s) (DBQs) – select all that apply**
 - DBQ(s) completed by VA medical facility (DBQ confirmation sheet attached)
 - DBQ(s) is/are present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Private treatment records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
- VA medical records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Military Treatment Facility (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Vet Center Records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- VA Form 4138, Statement in Support of Claim**
- VA Form 686c, Declaration of Status of Dependents**
- VA Form 21-674, Request for Approval of School Attendance**
- Marriage certificate**
- Divorce decree**
- Birth certificate / Adoption papers**
- Other: _____**

AGGRAVATION CLAIMS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- VA Form 526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits**
- Current Condition**
 - Evidence attached
 - Evidence is present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Baseline of Current Condition**
 - Evidence attached
 - Evidence is present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Indication of Association (to service or an S/C condition)**
- Disability Benefits Questionnaire(s) (DBQs) – select all that apply**
 - DBQ(s) completed by VA medical facility (DBQ confirmation sheet attached)
 - DBQ(s) is/are present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Private treatment records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
- VA medical records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Military Treatment Facility (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- Vet Center Records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)
- VA Form 4138, Statement in Support of Claim**
- VA Form 686c, Declaration of Status of Dependents**
- VA Form 21-674, Request for Approval of School Attendance**
- Marriage certificate**
- Divorce decree**
- Birth certificate / Adoption papers**
- Other: _____**

PRE-DISCHARGE CLAIMS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Pre-Discharge DRC Cover Sheet**
 - Expected Date of Discharge**
- VA Form 526EZ, *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits***
- Certified DD Form 214**
- Service Treatment Records (for all periods of service) – select all that apply**
 - Evidence attached**
 - Evidence is present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)**
- Disability Benefits Questionnaire(s) (DBQs) – select all that apply**
 - DBQ(s) completed by VA medical facility (DBQ confirmation sheet attached)**
 - DBQ(s) is/are present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)**

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Private treatment records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
- VA medical records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)**
- Military Treatment Facility (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)**
- Vet Center Records (*related to claimed disabilities only*)**
 - Present within VBMS (*list document number in Direct Upload*)**
- VA Form 4138, *Statement in Support of Claim***
- VA Form 686c, *Declaration of Status of Dependents***
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- Marriage certificate**
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- Birth certificate / Adoption papers**
- Other: _____**

DIC CLAIMS

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- VA Form 21-534EZ, Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits**
- Death Certificate – select one of the two options below**
 - Indicates cause of Veteran’s death was a service-connected disability**
 - Veteran died from a non-service-connected injury or disease, AND was receiving, or entitled to receive VA Compensation for a service-connected disability, rated totally disabling:**
 - For at least 10 years immediately before death**

Note: To grant DIC, the dependency relationship must be established. Additional documentation below may be required if the dependency relationship is not established.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Private treatment records (related to DIC disability only)**
- VA medical records (related to claimed disabilities only)**
 - Present within VBMS (list document number in Direct Upload)**
- Military Service Treatment Records**
 - Present within VBMS (list document number in Direct Upload)**
- VA Form 4138, Statement in Support of Claim**
- VA Form 21-686c, Declaration of Status of Dependents**
- VA Form 21-674, Request for Approval of School Attendance**
- Marriage Certificate**
- Divorce Decree**
- Birth certificate / Adoption papers**
- Other: _____**

I certify that the claimant has authorized me to file this claim as a Decision Ready Claim. I further certify that the documents contained within this claim are complete and truthful to the best of my knowledge and that the claimant has indicated that there is no other evidence in support of this claim.

VSO Signature