VA LAW FOR NON-VA LAWYERS

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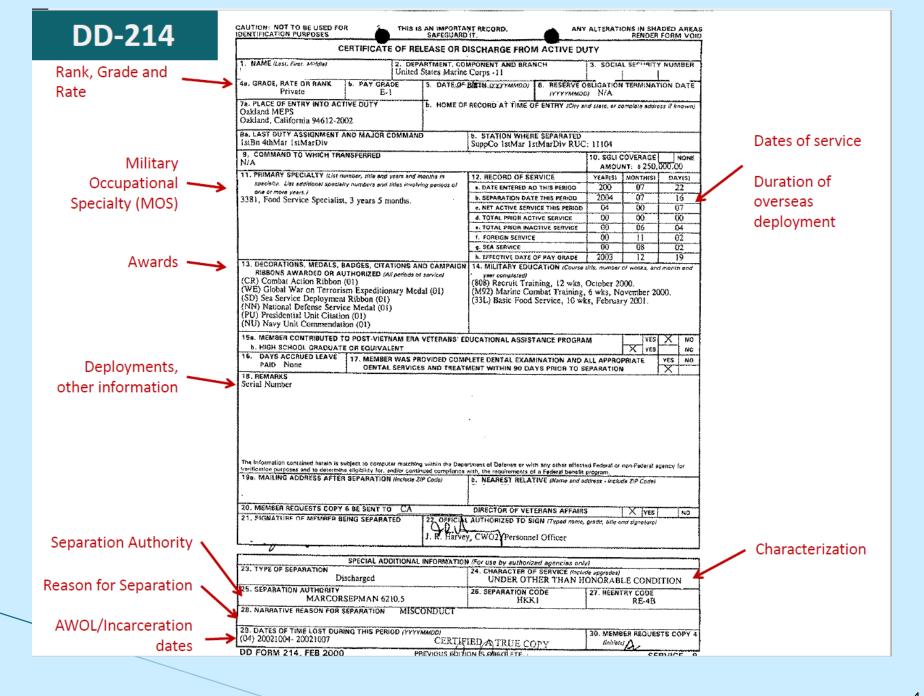
Agenda

- -Types of Military Discharges & VA Benefits
- -VA Disability Compensation & VA Pension
- -VA Appeals Modernization Act (AMA)
- -Veterans Benefits Administration Reports
- -The PACT Act
- -Incarceration & VA Benefits
- -VA Fugitive Felon Program
- -VA Benefits & the Criminal Sentencing Case
- -Requesting Military Records & VA Records
 - -Military Records
 - -VA Records
 - -Civilian Medical Records for VA Purposes
 - -VA Claims File
 - -VA/Military Records and Witnesses

Military Discharges

What You Need to Know About Your Client's Military Discharge (DD-214)

- What Information is Found on the DD-214?
- Military Discharges Generally



What Types of Military Discharges Are There?

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGES

- Honorable Discharge
- General (Under Honorable Conditions) Discharge
- Other-Than-Honorable Discharge
- Uncharacterized, or Entry-Level Separation (ELS)
 Discharge

PUNITIVE DISCHARGES

- Bad-Conduct Discharge
- Dishonorable Discharge

Military discharge characterization

Honorable

General Under Honorable Conditions

Uncharacterized

Other than Honorable/Undesirable

Bad Conduct

Dishonorable

VA eligibility determination

"Honorable for VA purposes"

Depends on VA review "Dishonorable for VA purposes"

BENEFITS AT SEPARATION

BENEFITS AT	/	Honorable	DD Form 256A	٦		
SEPARATIO SEPARATIO	$_{\rm ON}$ /		1	nder Honorable C	onditions DD Fo	rm 257A "4"
E Eligible	/		/	Other Tha	n Honorable	"5"
NE Not Eligible TBD To be determined by Administering Agency				$\overline{}$	Bad Cond	uct Discharge
DV Eligibility for these benefits depend upon specific disabilities of the veteran						Dishonorable Discharge General Court-Martial) "6"
Army Administered						Authority and References "7"
Payment for Accrued Leave Death Gratuity (six months pay) Wearing of Military Uniform Admission to Soldiers' Home "1" Burial in Army National Cemeteries Burial in Army Post Cemeteries "2" Army Board for Correction of Military Records Army Discharge Review Board Transportation to Home "3" Transportation of Dependents and Household Goods to Home	E E E E E E E E	E E E E E E E E	NE E NE NE NE NE E E E TBD "8"	NE E NE NE NE NE E TBD "8"	NE NE NE NE NE NE E TBD "8"	37 USC 501-503; DODPEM Par. 40401a 10 USC 1480; DODPEM Par. 40501b 10 USC 771a, 772; AR 670-1 24 USC 49, 50 38 USC 1002; AR 290-5 AR 210-190 10 USC 1552; AR 15-185 10 USC 1553; AR 15-180 37 USC 404; JTR par. U7500-7506 37 USC 406; JTR par. U5225, par. U5370
Transitional Benefits & Services "14"	'					
Pre-separation Counseling Employment Assistance Health Benefits Commissary/Exchange Military Family Housing Overseas Relocation Assistance Excess Leave/Permissive TDY Preference for USAR/ARNG Montgomery G.I. Bill (Additional Opportunity)	E E E E E E E	E E E E E E E NE	E E NE	E E NE	E NE NE NE NE NE NE NE	10 USC Section 1142 10 USC Section 1143, 1144 10 USC Section 1145 10 USC Section 1146 10 USC Section 1147 10 USC Section 1148 10 USC Section 1149 10 USC Section 1150 38 USC Section 3011
Department of Veteran Affairs " 10 "		!		•		
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Pension for Non-Service Connected Disability or Death Medal of Honor Roll Pension Insurance Vocational Rehabilitation (DV) Educational Assistance Home and other Loans Hoepitalization & Domiciliary Care Medical and Dental Services Posthetic Appliances (DV) Guide Dogs & Equipment For Blindness (DV) Special Housing (DV) Automobiles (DV) Funeral and Burial Expenses Burial Flag Burial in National Cemeteries Headstone Marker Administered by Other Federal Agencies	E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E	E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E	E TBD TBD TBD "11" TBD NE E TBD	E TBD TBD TBD "11" TBD NE E TBD	NE N	38 USC 410(b) 38 USC 521; 38 USC 3103 38 USC 562; 38 USC 3103 38 USC 711, 773; AR 608-2 38 USC 1502, 1503 38 USC 1502, 1503 38 USC 1802, 1818 38 USC 1802, 1818 38 USC 610; 38 USC 3103 38 USC 612; 38 USC 3103 38 USC 614; 38 USC 3103 38 USC 614; 38 USC 3103 38 USC 614; 38 USC 3103 38 USC 801; 38 USC 3103 38 USC 801; 38 USC 3103 38 USC 902; 38 USC 3103
Preference for Farm Loan (Dept. of Agriculture)	E	E	E	E	NE	7 USC 1983(5)
 Preference for Farm & other Rural Housing Loans (Dept. of Agriculture) 	E	E	E	E	NE NE	42 USC 1477
 Civil Service Preference "13" (Office of Personnel Management) 	Е	E	NE	NE	NE	5 USC 2108, 3309-3316, 3502, 3504
4. Civil Service Retirement Credit 5. Reemployment Rights (Dept. of Labor) 6. Job Counseling & Employment Placement (Dept. of Labor) 7. Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (Dept. of Labor) 8. Naturalization Benefits (Dept. of Justice Immigration	E E E	NE E E	NE NE E NE	NE NE E NE	NE NE NE	5 USC 8331, 8332 38 USC 2021-2026 38 USC 2001-2014 5 USC 8501, 8521
Naturalization Benefits (Dept. of Justice Immigration & Naturalization Service) Old Age, Survivors & Disability Insurance (Social	Е	Е	NE	NE	NE	8 USC 1439, 1440; AR 608-3, par. 2-2-3
Security Administration) 10. Job Preference, Public Works Projects "13" (Dept. of Commerce)	E E	E E	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	NE "12" NE	42 USC 417 42 USC 6706; 13 CFR.317.35

VA Disability Compensation & VA Pension (not military retirement)

Service-Connected Compensation

- Monthly benefit for veterans with a <u>current health</u> <u>condition</u> that is "at least as likely as not" <u>linked to their</u> <u>military service</u>
- Not means-tested

Non-Service-Connected Pension

- Monthly benefit for <u>low-income wartime</u> veterans who are <u>totally & permanently disabled or elderly</u>
- Means-tested

VETERANS PENSION ELIGIBILITY

- May qualify for a Veteran's pension if:
 - Vet was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions,

<u>AND</u>

- served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of wartime, <u>or;</u>
- permanently & totally disabled <u>or</u> are age 65 or older.

VETERANS PENSION ELIGIBILTY

- Vet also must have limited income and a limited net worth or assets to qualify for a VA pension.
- Net worth includes Veteran's and spouse's assets and annual income.
- When Veteran applies for Pension benefits, he/she will need to report all of these assets and income.
- ▶ The 2022 *asset limit* for VA pension is \$138,489

VA Pension

- Veteran (alone no deps)
- VA Housebound Pension Payments
 - Veteran
 - Married Veteran
 - Surviving Spouse
- Veteran Aid & Attendance (A&A) Without Dependents
- Veteran –A&A With One Dependent
- Surviving Spouse

2022 VA Pension Income Limits (Effective Dec. 1, 2021)

If you are a	Your yearly income must be less than
Veteran with no dependents	\$14,753
Veteran with a spouse or a child	\$19,320
Housebound veteran with no dependents	\$18,029
Housebound veteran with one dependent	\$22,596
Veteran who needs aid and attendance and has no dependents	\$24,610
Veteran who needs aid and attendance (A/A) and has one dependent	\$29,175
Two Vets Married to Each Other	\$19,320
Add for Each Additional Child to any category above	\$2,523

VA PENSION PAYMENT RATES

- The VA pays the Veteran the difference between his/her countable family income and the yearly income limit which describes their situation
 - (see prior chart).
- This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar.

Service Connected Disability Compensation

- What you must prove:
 - 1) <u>Veteran status</u> a person who served on active duty and who was discharged honorably or other than dishonorable
 - 2) <u>Current disability</u> veteran's disability must exist currently
 - 3) <u>Service connection</u> must show that the disability is linked to an event/injury in service
 - 4) <u>Medical nexus</u> need medical opinion linking the in service event/injury to the current disability ("as likely as not" standard)
 - 5) Compensation rates vary from 0%-100% or \$0 to \$3,456 per month for veteran alone.
 - 6) Additional amounts based on family size & other factors

Current VA Disability Compensation Rates

Compensation rates for Veterans with a 10% to 20% disability rating

Effective December 1, 2021

Note: If you have a 10% to 20% disability rating, you won't receive a higher rate even if you have a dependent spouse, child, or parent.

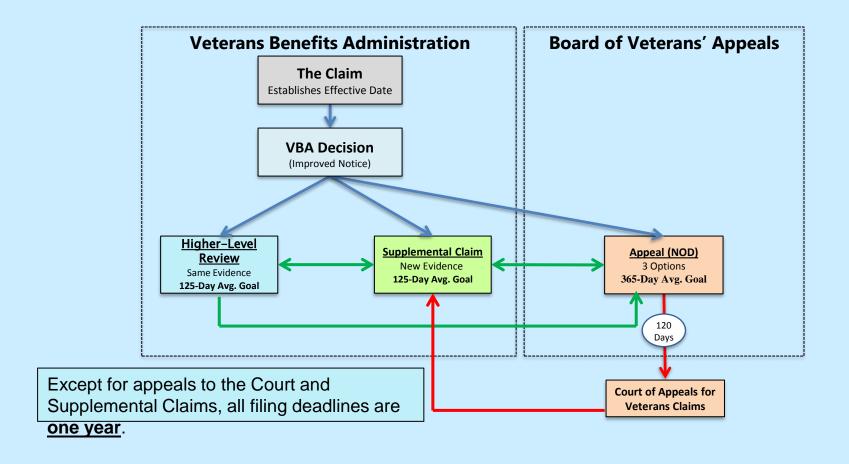
Disability rating	Monthly payment (in U.S. \$)	
10%	152.64	
20%	301.74	

Dependent status	30% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	40% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	50% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	60% disability rating (in U.S. \$)
Veteran with 1 child only (no spouse or parents)	504.39	722.28	1020.44	1,288.03
With 1 child and spouse (no parents)	563.39	801.28	1,118.44	1,407.03
With 1 child, spouse, and 1 parent	607.39	860.28	1,192.44	1,496.03
With 1 child, spouse, and 2 parents	651.39	919.28	1,266.44	1,585.03
With 1 child and 1 parent (no spouse)	548.39	781.28	1,094.44	1,377.03
With 1 child and 2 parents (no spouse)	592.39	840.28	1,168.44	1,466.03

Dependent status	70% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	80% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	90% disability rating (in U.S. \$)	100% disability rating (in U.S. \$)
Veteran with child only (no spouse or parents)	1,615.95	1,877.43	2,109.52	3,456.30
With 1 child and spouse (no parents)	1,754.95	2,035.43	2,287.52	3,653.89
With 1 child, spouse and 1 parent	1,858.95	2,154.43	2,421.52	3,802.99
With 1 child, spouse and 2 parents	1,962.95	2,273.43	2,555.52	3,952.09
With 1 child and 1 parent	1,719.95	1,996.43	2,243.52	3,605.40
With 1 child and 2 parents (no spouse)	1,823.95	2,115.43	2,377.52	3,754.50

Appeals Modernization Act (AMA) February 19, 2019 Law Change

New Decision Review Process



Three Review (Appeal) Options

V	BVA	
Supplemental Claim	Higher-Level Review	Board Appeal
 Replaces "reconsiderations" and "reopening" claims with "new and material" evidence VA will readjudicate a claim if "new and relevant" evidence is presented or identified with a supplemental claim (open record). VA will assist in gathering new and relevant evidence (duty to assist). Effective date for benefits is always protected when submitted within 1 year of prior decision. Tracked and controlled under EP 040 series 	 More experienced VA employee takes a second look at the same evidence (closed record and no duty to assist). Option for a one-time telephonic informal conference with the higher-level reviewer to discuss the error in the prior decision De novo review with full difference of opinion authority Duty to assist errors returned to lower-level for correction (quality feedback) Tracked and controlled under EP 030 series Decisionmakers are Decision Review Officers (DROs) and 	 Evidence only docket: The appellant may submit evidence within the 90 day window following submission of the NOD. The Board does not have a duty to assist and the record is otherwise closed. Direct docket: The appellant receives direct review by the Board of the evidence that was before VBA in the decision on appeal. The Board has a 365-day timeliness goal for this docket. Quality feedback loop for VBA. Hearing docket: The appellant will be scheduled for a Board hearing. Additionally, the appellant may submit evidence within the 90 day window
 Decisionmakers are Veterans Service Representatives (VSRs) and Rating VSRs 	Senior VSRs	following the scheduled hearing. The Board does not have a duty to assist and the record is otherwise closed.

(RVSRs)

Veterans Benefits Administration Reports

(as of 08/13/2022)

Claims Inventory:

- Disability compensation and pension claims that have been received by VA that requires development and a decision by a VA claims processor:
 - Current (August 2022): 605,760
 - 2021: 475,821
 - 2020: 408,194

Claims Backlog

- Subset of Claims Inventory, the backlog number represents claims that have been awaiting a rating decision for *more than 125 days since receipt*.
 - Current: 159,701
 - 2021: 213,304
 - 2020: 68,222

Veterans Benefits Administration Reports

(as of 08/13/2022)

VA Compensation Appeals Pending (Texas):

- Total:
 - · 2022: 70,885
 - 2021: 49,561
- Texas Claims that have been awaiting a rating decision for more than 125 days since receipt:
 - 2022: 15,807
- Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA)
 - As of June 2022: 239,470 total appeals pending at BVA
 - Average Days to Completion from filing of Appeal (Notice of Disagreement);
 - Direct Review (no new evidence or hearing): 359 days
 - Evidence Submission, but no hearing: 371 days
 - Hearing: 691 days

The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our <u>Promise to Address Comprehensive</u> <u>Toxics</u> (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras.
- Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures.
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

- What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?
 - To get a VA disability rating, Vet disability must connect to military service. For many health conditions, Vet needs to prove that his/her service caused your condition.
 - But for some conditions, VA automatically assume (or "presume") that service caused your condition. VA calls these "presumptive conditions."
 - VA considers a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation.
 - If Vet has a presumptive condition, Vet does not need to prove that service caused the condition. Only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

- Conditions have been added to the presumptive list for "covered veterans," effective August 10, 2022.
- Defines a covered veteran as one of the following:
 - 1. A veteran who, **on or after August 2, 1990**, performed active military, naval, air, or space service while assigned to a duty station in, including air space above:
 - -Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Arab Emirates
 - 2. A veteran who, **on or after September 11, 2001**, performed active military, naval, air, or space service, while assigned to a duty station, including the airspace above:
 - -Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

Toxic Exposure Presumptives Effective Dates

- For toxic exposure presumptive claims, the effective dates in the Act are listed below in following slides.
- If a veteran is terminally ill, homeless, in severe financial difficulty, aged 85 or older, or can demonstrate other acceptable cause, August 10, 2022, is the effective date for claims.
- This also applies to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- Effective Dates: VA Implementation
 - VA declared all 23 conditions presumptive from the date the bill was signed.
 - Eliminates phase in system shown on next slide.

Gulf War era & post-9/11 Veteran eligibility

Added more than 20 burn pit and other toxic exposure presumptive conditions based. This change expands benefits for Gulf War era & post-9/11 Veterans.

These <u>cancers</u> are now presumptive:

- Brain cancer (effective immediately)
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type (effective October 1, 2024)
- Glioblastoma (effective immediately)
- Head cancer of any type (effective October 1. 2024)
- Kidney cancer (effective October 1, 2025)
- Lymphatic cancer of any type (effective October 1, 2024)
- Lymphoma of any type (effective October 1, 2024)
- Melanoma (effective October 1, 2025)
- Neck cancer (effective October 1, 2024)
- Pancreatic cancer (effective October 1, 2024)
- Reproductive cancer of any type (effective October 1, 2024)
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type (effective immediately)

Gulf War era & post-9/11 Veteran eligibility

- These <u>illnesses</u> are now presumptive:
- Asthma that was diagnosed after service (effective immediately)
- Chronic bronchitis (effective October 1, 2023)
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (effective October 1, 2023)
- Chronic rhinitis (effective immediately)
- Chronic sinusitis (effective immediately)
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis (effective immediately)
- Emphysema (effective immediately)
- Granulomatous disease (effective immediately)
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD) (effective immediately)
- Pleuritis (effective immediately)
- Pulmonary fibrosis (effective immediately)
 - Sarcoidosis (effective immediately)

Vietnam era Veteran eligibility

- PACT Act, added 2 new Agent Orange presumptive conditions:
 - High blood pressure (also called hypertension)
 - Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)

Vietnam era Veteran eligibility

- PACT Act, added these 5 new locations to the list of presumptive locations:
 - Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976
 - Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969
 - Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
 - Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from Jan 9, 1962 - Jul 30, 1980
 - Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977
- If Vet served on active duty in any of these locations, VA will automatically assume (or "presume") the Vet had exposure to Agent Orange.

PACT ACT: New Radiation Presumptive Locations

- Added these 3 new response efforts to the list of presumptive locations:
 - Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll, from January 1, 1977, through December 31, 1980
 - Cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of **Palomares, Spain**, from January 17, 1966, through March 31, 1967
 - Response to the fire onboard an Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons near Thule Air Force Base in Greenland from January 21, 1968, to September 25, 1968
- If Vet took part in any of these efforts, VA will automatically assume (or "presume") that he/she had exposure to radiation.

PACT ACT: Survivors

- Surviving family member of a Veteran, may be eligible for these benefits:
 - A monthly VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC) payment. May qualify if a surviving spouse, dependent child, or parent of a Veteran who died from a service-connected disability.
 - A one-time accrued benefits payment. May qualify if surviving spouse, dependent child, or dependent parent of a Veteran who we owed unpaid benefits at the time of their death.
 - A Survivors Pension. May qualify if you're the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran with wartime service.

- People who were at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, for 30 days or more are eligible to file suit.
 - Veterans, family members, non-military workers (civilian contractors), and others who were exposed between these dates may qualify for a lawsuit.
- Water contamination at the base included multiple volatile organic compounds such as:
 - tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, and benzene
- Base residents and workers drank, bathed in, cooked with, and used for decades.

- Upwards of one million people were exposed to toxic chemicals in the Camp Lejeune water supply.
- People exposed to the water have suffered from various types of cancer, Parkinson's Disease, birth defects, and other serious and often deadly medical conditions.
- Impacted people will be able to recover compensation for their injuries, medical costs, emotional harm, and any other applicable damages – including wrongful death.
- ▶ The Act requires the completion of an administrative process prior to the filing of a lawsuit.
- All claims ripe for filing suit must be filed in the U.S. District
 Court: Eastern District of North Carolina.

- The Camp Lejeune Justice Act is broad, allowing not just those who were on active duty to participate.
- Those able to file claims for compensation include:
 - Military family members present at the base
 - Non-military staff
 - Other exposed civilians (contractors)
- Statute of Limitations
 - Two years after the enactment of the Act
 - 180 days after the date which the claim is denied

What Could Change A Camp Lejeune Lawsuit Award?

- The legislation provides multiple offsets for awards granted from the lawsuit.
- This means there are some current benefits a Veteran or a family member could be receiving due to a health issue from Camp Lejeune which would decrease the amount of an award from this lawsuit.
- For a Veteran currently receiving VA benefits for service connected injuries sustained at Camp Lejeune, there will be an offset to the award based on your disability award, payment, or benefit.
- There are also offsets for Medicare, Medicaid, and SSDI benefits presented in this bill.

Disability Compensation

- VA disability compensation payments are reduced if a Veteran is convicted of a felony <u>and</u> imprisoned for more than 60 days.
- Veterans rated 20 percent or more are limited to the 10 percent disability rate (\$136.24 per month (2018)/ \$152.64 for 2022).
- For a Veteran whose disability rating is 10 percent, the payment is reduced by one-half.
- Once a Veteran is released from prison, compensation payments may be reinstated based upon the severity of the service connected disability(ies) at that time.
- Payments are not reduced for recipients participating in work release programs, residing in halfway houses (also known as "residential re-entry centers"), or under community control.
- Failure to notify VA of a Veteran's incarceration could result in the loss of all financial benefits until the overpayment is recovered.

Pension

- Veterans in receipt of VA pension will have payments terminated effective the 61st day after imprisonment in a Federal, State, or local penal institution for conviction of a felony or misdemeanor.
- Payments may be resumed upon release from prison if the Veteran meets VA eligibility requirements.
- Failure to notify VA of a Veteran's incarceration could result in the loss of all financial benefits until the overpayment is recovered.

https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-incarcerated.asp

Apportionment to Spouse or Children

- All or part of the compensation not paid to an incarcerated
 Veteran may be apportioned to the Veteran's spouse, child or children, and dependent parents on the basis of individual need.
- In determining individual need, consideration shall be given to such factors as the claimant's income and living expenses, the amount of compensation available to be apportioned, the needs and living expenses of other claimants as well as any special needs, if any, of all claimants.
- No apportionment will be made if the Veteran is a fugitive felon as will be defined later in presentation.

https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-incarcerated.asg

Education Benefits

- Beneficiaries incarcerated for other than a felony can receive full monthly benefits, if otherwise entitled.
- Convicted felons residing in halfway houses (also known as "residential re-entry centers"), or participating in work-release programs also can receive full monthly benefits.
- Claimants incarcerated for a felony conviction can be paid only the costs of tuition, fees, and necessary books, equipment, and supplies.
- VA cannot make payments for tuition, fees, books, equipment, or supplies if another Federal State or local program pays these costs in full.
- If another government program pays only a part of the cost of tuition, fees, books, equipment, or supplies, VA can authorize the incarcerated claimant payment for the remaining part of the costs.



August 24, 2016



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS 810 Vermont Ave NW Washington, D.C. 20420



TAX APPRAISAL DISTRICT

In Reply Refer to:

Dear Mr.



is receiving service-connected disability compensation from the

Department of Veterans Affairs.

The current benefit paid is as follows: Gross Benefit Amount \$3,010.06

Net Amount Paid

\$0.00

Effective Date

August 1, 2016

Combined Evaluation

100 percent

How You Can Contact Us

- · If you need general information about benefits and eligibility, please visit us at https://www.ebenefits.va.gov or http://www.va.gov.
- Call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 1-800-829-4833.
- · Ask a question on the Internet at https://iris.va.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Reynolds, Director Benefits Assistance Service

2022: 100% for Vet & Child is equal to \$3,456.30

Loss of VA Disability Benefits:

- Veteran's VA disability rate in <u>2018</u> at 100% would have been \$3,190 per month
- If paid at 10% rate it would be \$136 per month
- \Rightarrow \$3,190 136 = \$3,054 loss per month
- Loss of VA Disability Compensation per year

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One year: 10 \times \$3,054 = \$30,540
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Two years: $22 \times \$3,054 = \$67,188$

Three years: $34 \times \$3,054 = \$103,836$

Four years: $46 \times \$3,054 = \$140,484$

Five years: $58 \times \$3,054 = \$177,132$

Six years: $70 \times \$3,054 = \$213,780$

Seven years: $82 \times \$3,054 = \$250,428$

Eight years: $94 \times \$3,054 = \$287,076$

Nine years: $106 \times \$3,054 = \$323,724$

Ten years: $118 \times \$3,054 = \$360,372$

VA DISABILITY & SENTENCING

- Sentencing Impact on VA Disability Benefits
 - Sentencing Direct Exam Questions
 - · Example in materials
 - DD214
 - VA Letter: Current Disability Compensation
 - Client can get from VA E-Benefits website
 - Veterans Compensation Benefits Rate Tables Effective 12/1/2021
 - https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp01.asp
 - VA website on Incarcerated Veterans:
 - https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-incarcerated.asp
 - VA Fact Sheet on Incarcerated Veterans:
 - https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/misc/incarcerated.pdf

Sentence

- Prosecutor argued for 10 years in jail
- Sentence from Judge
 - 10 years Deferred Adjudication
 - Fine
 - Community Service
 - Serve 100 days in jail,
 - first 50 day for day,
 - the remaining 50 days
 - Saturday & Sunday on work release

Question:

- Whether a Veteran being held in a State Hospital was in confinement for purposes of 38 U.S.C § 5313(c), which limits the payment of VA disability compensation to persons that are incarcerated for a conviction of a felony?
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit:
 - Philbrook v. McDonough, 15 F.4th 1117, No. 2020-2233 (October 8, 2021),
 - The Veteran was remanded to the custody of the Oregon State Hospital. Initially, the VA, the Board of Veterans Appeals, and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims found that the Veteran was "incarcerated" in a "correctional facility" per the statutory language prohibiting an award of VA disability compensation.
 - The Federal Circuit held that the plain language of 38 U.S.C § 5313(c) did not apply to the Veteran's confinement in a "mental institution". *It held the Veteran was not confined to a "penal institutional or correctional facility.*" The court held that a "correctional facility" cannot encompass a hospital that treats civil patients, and a hospital cannot be a correctional facility for some patients and not others. *The Court held that the Veteran was not barred from receiving VA disability compensation.*

- Resumption of VA Benefits upon release
 - The VA benefit will be resumed the date of release from incarceration if the VA receives notice of release within one (1) year following release;
 - Otherwise the VA benefit shall be resumed the date of receipt of notice of release.

VA Fugitive Felon Program

- VA is prohibited from providing or continuing health care service (including medication) or VA benefits to Veterans and beneficiaries identified as a "fugitive felon."
- A *Fugitive Felon* is defined as a person who is:
 - Fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, for an offense, or an attempt to commit an offense, which is felony* under the laws of the place from which the person flees, or
 - Violates a condition of probation imposed for commission of a felony under Federal or State law.

^{*}The term felony includes a high misdemeanor under the laws of a State which characterizes as high misdemeanors offenses that would be felony offenses under Federal law.

VA Fugitive Felon Program

- VA will mail a letter to the Veteran or beneficiary identified as a fugitive felon to inform them of their status and termination of all VA benefits.
- VA cannot pay for any alternative care while in Fugitive Felon status and the VA will bill the Veteran and/or beneficiaries for all VA provided care received while in fugitive felon status.
- The fugitive felon's VA benefits file/records and medical file/records will be "flagged."

August 29, 2022



We made a decision on your VA benefits.

Dear

This letter will guide you through the information you should know and steps you may take now that VA has made a decision about your benefits.

On tane 07, 2022 we told you we have received information including that you are the subject of a felony arrest warrant. Section 5313B of title 38, United States Code, prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from providing certain benefits to a Veteran or a dependent of a Veteran who is identified as a fugitive felon. A fugitive felon is defined as a person:

- (A) Fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, for an offense, or an attempt to commit an offense, which is a felony under the laws of the place from which the person flees; or
- (B) Violating a condition of probation or parole imposed for commission of a felony under Federal or State law.

Furthermore, we informed you that we would be taking action to receup your benefits from October 26, 2021, the date the fugitive from warrant was issued.

We received evidence addressing why we should not take this action and attempted to verify with official sources on your behalf that the warrant was cleared but were unsuccessful.

Therefore, we cannot resume your benefits at this time.

We encourage you to contact the issuing agency and notify VA directly via correspondence or telephone contact that the fugitive felon warrant has been cleared.



We have included with this letter:

- Additional Benefits
- Where to Send Your Correspondence
- 3. VA Form 20-0998
- 4. Fraud Prevention Attachment

Contact information:

Web: www.vets.gov Phone: 1-800-827-1000 TDD: 711 To send questions online: visit https://iris.custhelp.com/

Social Media:

Twitter: @VAVetBenefits Facebook: www.facebook.com/ VeteransBenefits

Your representative:

You appointed TEXAS VETERANS COMUSSION as your accredited representative. They have also received a copy of this letter.

They can jelp you with any questions you have about your claim.

If you o someone you know is in crisis call the *Veterans Crisis Line* at 1,000-273-8255 and press 1.

Your Benefit Information:

Applicable Laws and Regulations: (38 C.F.R. §3.665, 38 U.S.C. 5313)

Your monthly entitlement amount is shown below:

Monthly Entitlement Amount	Payment Start Date	Reason
\$0.00	Oct 26, 2021	Fugitive Felon

We are currently paying you as a single Veteran with no dependents.

If payments are due, you should receive your first payment, if not already in receipt of payments, within 7-10 days of this notice.

Evidence Considered

In making our decision, we considered the following evidence:

- Bureau of Prisons / Fugitive Felon Information, received on June 03, 2022
- Notification Letter (e.g. VA 20-8993, VA 21-0290, PCGL), sent on June 07, 202 VA 27-0820 Report of General Information, received on June 21, 2022
- VA 27-0820 Report of General Information, received on June 21, 2022
- Court Documents General, received on July 01, 2022
- Court Documents General, received on July 01, 2022
- Court Documents General, received on July 01, 2022
- Third Party Correspondence, received on July 06, 2022
- Court Documents General, received on July 06, 2022 Court Documents - General, received on July 06, 2022

What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision

If you do not agree with our decision, you have one year from the date of this letter to select a review option in order to protect your initial filing date for effective date purposes. You must file your request on the required application form for the review option desired. The table below represents the review antions and their respective required application form

Review Option	Required Application Form
Supplemental Claim	VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim
Higher-Level Review	VA Form 20-0996, Decision Review Request: Higher-Level

VA Fugitive Felon Program

- Resolving Fugitive Felon Status:
 - Persons identified as a fugitive felon must contact the Originating Agency that issued a felony warrant if it is believe:
 - An error was made, such as mistaken identity.
 - The warrant should be cancelled.
 - The warrant has been satisfied by arrest or surrender.
 - There are other reasons, which would resolve the warrant.
 - Evidence that the warrant has been satisfied should be provided to the VA.

VA Fugitive Felon Program

- The fact that a warrant has been dismissed, recalled, quashed, or otherwise cleared does not mean that no action is required on the fugitive referral, unless it has been established that the warrant was cleared effective on or before the date the beneficiary went in fugitive status.
- In most cases in which a warrant is dismissed, recalled, or quashed, there was still a valid warrant up to the date the warrant was cleared, so VA benefits are subject to adjustment from the warrant date until the recall/dismissal/quash date.

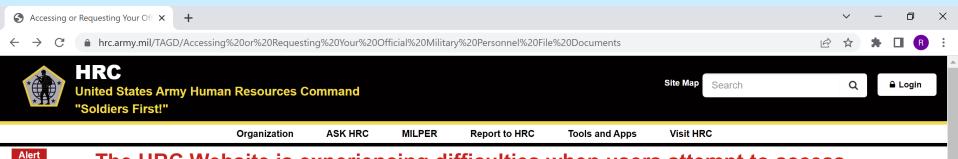
Request for Military Records

- Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)
 - Request at beginning of case due to length of time to get records
 - No cost
 - Contains some Service Treatment Records
 - Contains disciplinary actions, awards, combat/deployment information
 - Have it sent to Attorney
 - Generally receive CD/DVD
- Military Medical Records and Alcohol & Drug Treatment Records

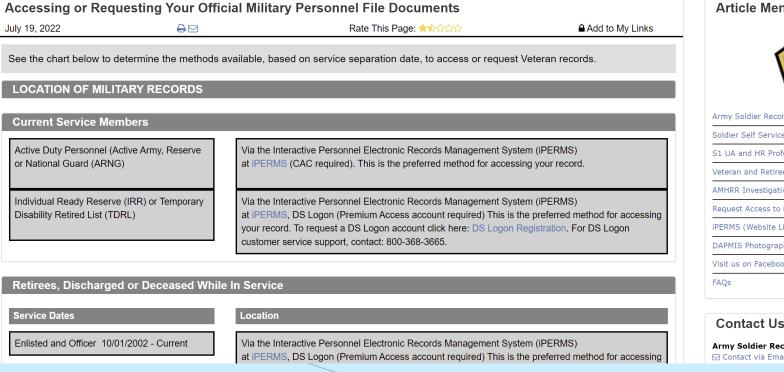
Military Personnel Records, SF-180

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https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Accessing%20or%20Requesting%20Your%20Official%20Military%20Personnel%20File%20Documents.



The HRC Website is experiencing difficulties when users attempt to access it using Microsoft Edge. Please use a different browser for the time being as we work to resolve the issue.





Getting Military Medical Records DD Form 2870

	PRIVA	CY ACT STATEMENT	
In accordance with the	Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law	93-579), the notice informs you of the	e purpose of the form and how
it will be used. Please r	ead it carefully. w 104-191; E.O. 9397 (SSAN);	73-377), the house mionis you or the	purpose of the form and now
AUTHORITY: Public La	w 104-191; E.O. 9397 (SSAN);	DoD 6025.18-R.	ent Facility/FDICADE Health Disa
with a means to reques	the use and/or disclosure of an	litary Treatment Facility/Dental Treatme individual's protected health information	on.
ROUTINE USE(S): To a	ny third party or the individual u	pon authorization for the disclosure from	m the individual for: personal
DISCLOSURE: Voluntar	d medical care; school; legal; re v. Failure to sign the authorizat	tirement/separation; or other reasons. ion form will result in the non-release o	f the protected health
information.			
This form will not be us for authorization to disc	ed for the authorization to discid	se alcohol or drug abuse patient inform an alcohol or drug abuse treatment pro	nation from medical records or noram. In addition, any use as
an authorization to use	or disclose psychotherapy notes	may not be combined with another au	thorization except one to use or
disclose psychotherapy			
		ON I - PATIENT DATA	
 NAME (Last, First, Mide 	lle Initial)	2. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD	3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
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4. PENIOD OF TREATMEN	1. PROM - TO (TTTTM/NDD)		TIENT BOTH
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	SECT		
6. I AUTHORIZE	(Name of Facility/TRICARI		SE MY PATIENT INFORMATION TO:
a. NAME OF PERSON OR	ORGANIZATION TO RECEIVE MY	b. ADDRESS (Street, City, State a	nd ZIP Code)
MEDICAL INFORMATIO	N		
c. TELEPHONE (Include Ar	ea Code)	d. FAX (Include Area Code)	
7. REASON FOR REQUES	T/USE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION	(X as applicable)	
PERSONAL USE	CONTINUED MEDICAL CARE		v/
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		LEWIS	
B. INFORMATION TO BE I	RELEASED		
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Alcohol and Drug Treatment Records, DA Form 5018-R

	day of20
(client's full name) do hereby voluntarily consent to the release of the following information by	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	(name of installation ADAPCP)
pertaining to my identity, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment from any Arm	ny record maintained in connection with
alcohol or other drug abuse education, training, treatment, rehabilitatiton, or	or research to
for the purpose of	
to the purpose of	
	namel
(extent or nature of information to be disclo	and)
(extent or nature of information to be atseto	nea)
SECTION B - EXPIRATION/REVOCATI	ION
(Check applicable paragraph)	
 I understand that this consent automatically expires when the ab reliance thereon and that, except to the extent that such action has be 	
any time.	
 Or - (For disclosure to civilian criminal justice officials under the provisions of paragray 	uphs 6-9b(4)(b) and 6-10e(3), AR 600-85)
_	
 I understand that this consent automatically expires 60 days from 	m today's date or when my present
criminal justice system status changes to	
Further, I understand that if my release from confinement, probation, participation in the ADAPCP, I cannot revoke this consent until there termination or revocation of my release from such confinement, prob	e has been a formal and effective
NATURE OF CLIENT	DATE
ME OF WITNESS (Type or print) SIGNATURE	DATE
SECTION C - APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR RELEASE	E OF INFORMATION
TE: Other than the MEDCEN/MEDDAC Commander, approval authority for release of inf Physician or the Clinical Director.	formation may be delegated to the Program
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
In my judgment, the release of an evaluation of the present or past status o	(client's name)
in the alcohol or other drug treatment and rehabilitation program will not be	,
ME OF MEDCEN/MEDDAC COMMANDER OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE (Type or print)	DATE

Request for VA Records

- VA medical records
 - Can obtain free of costs within weeks
 - Who request?
 - Vet for self
 - Attorney can request with Vet signature
- Private/Civilian Medical Records for Veteran benefits in Texas (discussed later)
- VA Claims file (discussed later)

VA Medical & Treatment Records VA Form 10-5345

		EN EUROPEAN CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR				
	FOR AND AUTH INFORMATION	ORIZATION TO RELEASE	LAST NAME-FIRST NAME-N	HIDDLE INITIAL	LAST 4 SSN	DATE OF BIRTH
PRIVACY ACT AND PAPER WORK REDUCTION ACT notify you that this information collection is in accordance with the sponsor, and you are not required to respend o, a collection of infor expended by all individuals who must complete this form will avera gather the necessary facts and fill out this form. The execution of th specifically described below. The information requested on this form is solicited under Title 38 U Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, 45 CFR Parts I Your disclosure of the information requested on this form is volunta Number (SSN) and Date of Birth (used to locate records for release) the request. The Veterans Health Administration may not condition VA may disclose the information that you put on the form as permit outlined in the Privacy Act system of records notices identified as 2 System Records (Title 38)-VA ²² and in accordance with the Notice of and person claiming or receiving VA benefits and their records, and	clearance requirements of s rmation unless is displays a tige 2 minutes. This include is form does not authorize to I.S.C. The form authorizes 160 and 164; 5 U.S.C. 552a try. However, if the inform jos not furnished completel treatment, payment, enroll ted by law. VA may make 4VA10P2 "Patient Medical of Privacy Practices. VA m for other purposes authoris.	ection 3507 of the Act. We may not conduct or valid OMB number. We anticipate that the time s the time it will take to read the instructions, he release of information other than that release of information in accordance with the , and 38 U.S.C. 5701 and 7332 that you specify, ation including the last four of your Social Security yand accurately. VA will be unable to comply with ment or eligibility on signing the authorization. a "routine use" disclosure of the information as Record – VA, 08VA05 "Employee Medical File ay also use this information to identify veterans ed or required by law.	OTHER THAN TREATMENT. I request and authorize the Depart below for the non-treatment purp Drug Abuse Alcoholism or Human Immunodeficiency Viru I understand that information on the above boxes, and will be releated on not want this information releated on the above boxes.	tment of Veterans Affai ose(s) listed in this auth Alcohol Abuse Siclas (HIV) hese sensitive diagnose used even if the boxes are used for this specific dis ses released for treath	rs to release the infor orization: kle Cell Anemia s may be released for re unchecked <u>unless</u> l closure. ent purposes under	WHEN RELEASE IS FOR ANY PURPOSE mation pertaining to the condition(s) Treatment purposes without me checking indicate by checking the box below that I relise specific authorization. I realize
TO: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (N	Name and address of	VA health care facility): DATE OF BIRTH	condition of VA employment man complete to the best of my knowle this authorization in writing, at an Written revocation is effective up	ndates the signing of thi edge. I understand that by time except to the ext on receipt by the Release	s authorization. The I will receive a copy tent that action has alse of Information Uni	arily and without coercion, or because a information given above is accurate and of this form after I sign it. I may revoke ready been taken to comply with it. it at the facility housing records. Any
	The state of the s	Juli Secrit Gerhald Stranger Gold Gerhald (1955)	information disclosed per this aut and may be subject to re-disclosur		er be protected by Fe	deral confidentiality laws or regulations
NAME AND ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION, INI INFORMATION IS TO BE RELEASED				r, if I receive VA benef ons are made at a VA Ro	its, their amount. The egional Office that sp	
□ Treatment □ Benefits □ Legal □ Employmen		ESPECIAL SERVICES	☐ After one-time disclosure, if al	I needs are satisfied er a future date other th		ient)
			PATIENT SIGNATURE		DATE (mm/dd/yyyy)
INFORMATION REQUESTED: Check applicable box ☐ Health Summary (prior 2 years)	(es) and state the extent	or nature of information to be provided:				
☐ Inpatient Discharge Summary (dates):				une (if applicable)	DATE (I	mm/dd/yyyy)
□ Progress Notes:						
□ Specific clinics (name & date range): □ Specific providers (name & date range):			PRINT NAME OF LEGAL REPRESE	NTATIVE DEL	ATIONSHIP TO PATIE	AIT
Date range:			PRINT NAIVIE OF LEGAL REPRESE	NIAIIVE REL	ATTONSHIP TO PATTE	il I
Operative/Clinical Procedures (name &date):						
☐ Lab results:				FOR V	A USE ONLY	
☐ Specific tests (name & date):			Type and Extent of Material Rele		A OSE ONE	
☐ Date range:	_		Type and Extent of Material Rele	ascu.		
Radiology Reports (name & date):						
☐ List of Active Medications						
☐ Flu Vaccination (dose, lot number, date & location)						
Other (describe below):			Date Released:	Released by:		

VA Form 10-5345 SEPT 2018 Page 1 of 2

VA Form 10-5345

SEPT 2018

Page 2 of 2

VA Form 10-5345a

Department of Veterans Affairs	OF THEIR OWN HEA	LTH INFO	RMATION
PRIVAC			
The purpose of this form is to provide an individual the means to make a fifairs (VA) in accordance with 38 CFR L577. The information on this is his form is voluntary. However, if the information including the last four clease) is not furnished completely and accurately, VA will be unable to ther benefits to which you may be entitled. O: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (Name and Address	form is requested under Title 38 U.S.C. Yor of your Social Security Number (SSN) a comply with the request. Failure to furnis	nd Date of Birth (u	sed to locate records for
		14074600	DATE OF BIRTH
AST NAME- FIRST NAME- MIDDLE INITIAL		LAST 4 SSN	DATE OF BIRTH
DESCRIPTION O	F INFORMATION REQUESTED		
Check applicable box(es) and state the extent or nature of informa			
HEALTH SUMMARY (Prior 2 Years)			
INPATIENT DISCHARGE SUMMARY (Dates):			
PROGRESS NOTES:			
SPECIFIC CLINICS (Name & Date Range):			
SPECIFIC PROVIDERS (Name & Date Range):			
DATE RANGE:			
OPERATIVE/CLINICAL PROCEDURES (Name & Date):			
LAB RESULTS:			
SPECIFIC TESTS (Name & Date):			
DATE RANGE:			
RADIOLOGY REPORTS (Name & Date):			
LIST OF ACTIVE MEDICATIONS			
OTHER (Describe):			
COPY OF HEALTH INFORMATIO	ON IS TO BE DELIVERED TO TH	E INDIVIDUAL	
IN-PERSON PICK-UP, PROVIDE CONTACT PHONE NUMB			
MAIL TO ADDRESS:			
		DATE (**	m/dd/vvvv)
PATIENT CIONATURE (From to tol)		I DATE (#	moora very
PATIENT SIGNATURE (Sign in ink)			

VA FORM JUN 2017 10-5345a Page 1 of 1

No Cost Private Medical Records

- Texas Health & Safety Code § 161.201, Subchapter M, Medical or Mental Health
 - If using records to obtain SSA or VA benefits
- Texas Health and Safety Code § 161.202.
- Issues:
 - May need to educate the provider of the law
 - Medical record companies located outside of Texas
 - Send letter with copy of the law

Sec. 161.201. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to provide or render health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.

Sec. 161.202. FEES. (a) A health care provider or health care facility may not charge a fee for a medical or mental health record requested by a patient or former patient, or by an attorney or other authorized representative of the patient or former patient, for use in supporting an application for disability benefits or other benefits or assistance the patient or former patient may be eligible to receive based on that patient's or former patient's disability, or an appeal relating to denial of those benefits or assistance under:

- (I) Chapter 31, human Resources Code;
- (2) the state Medicaid program;
- $\qquad \qquad \text{(3) Title II, the federal Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. Section 401 et seq.);}$
- (4) Title XVI, the federal Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. Section 1382 et seq.);
- (5) Title XVIII, the federal Social Security Act, as amended (42
- U.S.C. Section 1395 of sec).
 - (6) 38 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq., as amended; or
 - (7) 38 U.S.C. Section 1501 et seq., as amended.
- (b) A health care provider or health care facility may charge a fee for the medical or mental health record of a patient or former patient requested by a state or federal agency in relation to the patient or former patient's application for benefits or assistance under Subsection (a) or an appeal relating to denial of those benefits or assistance.
- (c) A person, including a state or federal agency, that requests a record under this section shall include with the request a statement or document from the department or agency that administers the issuance of the assistance or benefits that confirms the application or appeal.
- (d) A health care provider or health facility is not required to provide more than one complete record for a patient or former patient requested under Subsection (a)(6) or (7) without charge. If additional material is added to the patient or former patient's record, on request the health care provider or health facility shall supplement the record provided under Subsection (a)(6) or (7) without charge. This subsection does not affect the ability of a person to receive a medical or mental health record under Subsections (a)(1)-(5).

VA CLAIMS FILE

- VA Benefits Claims File (C-File)
 - Request at beginning of case due to length of time to get records (6-12 months currently)
 - No cost
- What is in a C-File?
- How to get a C-File?
 - Client
 - Attorney
- What do you receive?
- Time

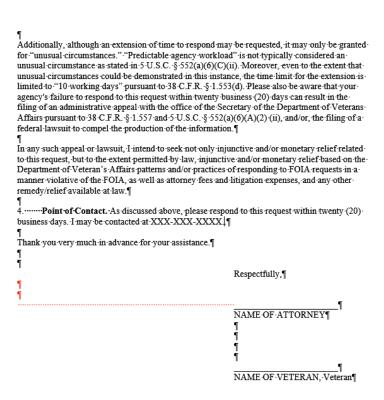
VA CLAIMS FILE: VA form 3288

			Form Approved: OMB No. 2800-0028 Respondent Burden: 7.5 minutes
Ø	Department of Veterans Affairs		
RI	EQUEST FOR AND CONSENT TO RELEA	SE OF INFORMATION FROM	INDIVIDUAL'S RECORDS
PRI	IVACY ACT STATEMENT: The execution of this form doe	s not authorize the release of information other	r than that specifically described below.
nfor	information requested on this form is solicited under Title 38 renation may also be disclosed outside VA as permitted by law	i, United States Code, and will authorize releate to include disclosure as stated in the "Notices"	ase of the information you specify. The of Systems of VA Records' published in
	Federal Register in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974. SPONDENT BURDEN: VA may not conduct or sponsor, a	of the component is not required to respect	a this collection of information value is
displ CFR alloy	slays a valid OMB Control Number. The Privacy Act of 1974 (R. 1.526(a) and 38 CFR 1.576(b) require individuals to provide weed to receive necords or information under any other prov 00-0028 and is necessary to ensure that the statutory requirement	5 U.S.C. 552a) and VA's confidentiality statute written consent before documents or informa- sion of law. The information requested is:	(38 U.S.C. 5701) as implemented by 38 tion can be disclosed to third parties not approved under OMB Control Number
Publi exist this	ponding to this collection of information is voluntary. However, slic reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average sting data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, a burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of Info	7.5 minutes per respondent, including the tir nd completing and reviewing the collection of emation, including suggestions for reducing the	me for reviewing instructions, searching information. Send comments regarding his burden, to the VA Clearance Officer
(005	5E3), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Sen		equests for benefits to this address.
	Department of Veterans Affairs	NAME OF INDIVIDUAL (Type or print)	
то		VA FILE NO. (Include prefix)	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
	A AND ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM INF		
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VA CLAIMS FILE FOIA

"Should" contain military records, military treatment records, VA treatment records, and VA claims documents

FREEDOM-OF-INFORMATION-ACT-REQUEST¶ Department of Veterans Affairs ¶ Records Management Center¶ St. Louis, MO-63120-1703¶ RE:-FREEDOM-OF-INFORMATION-ACT-REQUEST¶ Veteran: NAME OF VETERAN¶ VA·File·No: SERVICE·NUMBER·OR·SOCIAL·SECURITY·NUMBER¶ To Whom it May Concern: ¶ I am writing this letter on behalf of my client, Veteran NAME OF VETERAN. This is a request for documents under 38 C.F.R. §1.577, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), ... 5-U.S.C. §-552, and the Privacy Act, 5-U.S.C. §-552a, on behalf-of-Veteran NAME-OF-VETERAN. This request is properly made as it contains the signature of the requester. 1. → IDENTIFICATION·OF·DOCUMENTS.··I hereby request all documents contained inany VA claims folder for any of Veteran NAME OF VETERAN's VA claims, to include alldocuments in the right-flap, left-flap and center-flap, AND, to include anything in the VA-Virtual File, Virtual Records, or any electronic system where records about me or my claim are kept or stored.¶ → FORM/FORMAT IN WHICH TO PRODUCE INFORMATION. The FOIA and the VA's own internal policies related to FOIA requests, require that the records be produced in the format sought by the requester, if the record is readily reproducible in that form or format. Pleasetake special care to ensure that both sides of any two-sided documents produced in response tothis request are included in the response and are scanned into a PDF in such a way that they do not "bleed-through" from one side of the document to the other. 3. - TIME FOR RESPONSE. Please note that this request for documents is being made pursuant to the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), ... 5-U.S.C. §-552a, as-well-as-38-C.F.R. §1.550-and-38-C.F.R. §-1.577. Your agency has a duty torespond to this request within TWENTY (20) BUSINESS DAYS of the date of this request pursuant to ·5 ·U.S.C. ·§ ·552 ·(a)(6)(A)(2)(i). ¶ - Page Break -----¶



POINTS OF CONTACT FOR VA AND MILITARY MEDICAL RECORDS

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center(CRDAMC)*

Attn: Release of Information Phone: (254) 287-0912

36065 Santa Fe Ave Hospital Information: (254) 288-8904 ask for medical records

Fort Hood, TX 76544 Email: usarmy.hood.medcom-crdamc.list.roi@health.mil

*Notes: For free medical record, CRDAMC wants a letter on attorney letterhead to accompany the ROI form that states that the records are being used for a VA Disability case. Include an email address for records to be emailed. If records are not being used for VA Disability, then there will be a charge for the medical records.

Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center**

Attn: Release of Information Phone: 713)794-7776

Room 1B-304 Third party cannot fax request.

2002 Holcombe Blvd. Houston, TX 77030

**Notes: If mailing for the second time put in the ROI that a prior ROI was submitted.

Currently, Houston VAMC has a 3 month or longer wait time for records. Very common for this

VAMC to lose the ROI.

South Texas Veterans Health Care System(San Antonio area)

Audie L. Murphy VA Medical Center Phone: (210) 617-5300 Ext 15610 or Ext 16434

Attn: Medical Records Fax: (210) 949-9567

7400 Merton Minter San Antonio, TX 78229

Central Texas Veterans Health Care System(CTVHCS)***

1901 Veterans Memorial Drive Temple VA Phone: (254) 743-1545 POC: Stephen

Temple, Texas 76504 Fax: (254) 743-0234

***Waco & Austin VA come under CTVHCS. Waco VA Phone: (254) 297-3217 POC: Debra

Fax: (254) 743-2613

To follow up on Waco VA medical records can only call on Thursdays after 2pm.

VA North Texas Health Care System(Dallas)

Dallas VA Medical Center Phone: (214) 857-1355 Attn: Release of Information Fax: (214) 462-4802

4500 S Lancaster Rd. Dallas, TX 75216

VA Office of General Counsel Points of Contact for Records Releases

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Temple VA Attorneys primarily handle employment law issues:

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QUESTIONS?

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