

Department of Veteran Affairs - Document List for Filing a Claim

Following is a list of documents and information you will probably need as part of a claim for VA benefits. Even if you cannot obtain all of the information right away, you should still submit your claim.

Information Needed For Service Connected Claims:

- DD-214 (Sometimes called: Report of Separation, Military Record of Service, or Enlistment Record)**
- Marriage Certificate** (if currently married)
- Divorce papers or death certificate for all prior marriages of either the veteran or spouse/widow(er)**
- Birth certificates for all children being claimed as dependents (includes children in school between 18 - 23, helpless children of any age, and all children under 18 whether natural, adopted, or step children)**
- Doctor's statement (Nexus Letter):** (should make reference to medical findings, treatment, diagnosis, prognosis and whether he/she believes that it is related to your military service)
- Copy of your Service Medical Records** (If they are in your possession, if not we can send for them)
- List of Medications**
- Names and addresses of Doctors, Hospitals or VA Clinics visited or treated at.**
- Any private medical records that may pertain to your claimed medical condition(s).**
- Buddy Statements:** (people you served with, family members and friends that could provide information on your behalf regarding your claimed condition(s)).
- Any additional evidence that you may have to help support your claim** (photo's, news articles, etc.)
- What medical condition(s) do you believe are related to or aggravated by your military service?**
- A personal check or the account number and routing number of either checking or savings account** (for direct deposit)

NOTE: All documents (especially DD-214) should be either originals or certified copies, if possible. A claim may be filed without all of the required documents; however, all of the above information relevant to the claim will be needed before a decision can be made on your claim. Claims received without full information may take longer to process or be denied until the information is received. Claims based on non-service-connected disability or death generally require active duty during a recognized wartime period.