

GUIDED FILING TOOL ORIENTATION



Start with the claim situation, select the relevant conditions, and open a tailored preparation path.

STARTS WITH What the veteran is trying to file	BUILDS FROM Condition and claim relationship	RETURNS A tailored guide portal
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READ FIRST

The Guided Filing Tool is a routing system. It helps users find relevant RateMyVSO guides and tools based on their answers. It does not file a claim, choose a strategy, or predict an outcome.

STEP 01

CHOOSE THE CLAIM SITUATION

New claim

First claim for one or more conditions.

Add a condition

Claim a new condition while other disabilities are already service connected.

Increase

An already granted condition has worsened.

BDD

Still serving and approaching separation.

TDIU

Service-connected disabilities prevent substantially gainful work.

Presumptive

Toxic exposure or another presumptive route may apply.

Overview

Learn the process without choosing a specific filing lane.

STEP 02

SELECT THE CONDITIONS THAT BELONG IN THE CLAIM

1. Body area

Open the body-system or body-area picker.

2. Condition

Select the matching condition from the available list.

3. Add issues

Repeat for each condition intended for this filing.

4. Review

Confirm the selected conditions before continuing.

Do not guess a diagnosis: use the documented condition when known. If the diagnosis is uncertain, begin with the closest truthful body area and symptom path, then confirm against the medical record.

STEP 03

IDENTIFY SECONDARY RELATIONSHIPS

Condition being claimed

Select whether it is direct or secondary.

LINK TO

Primary condition

Choose another selected condition or an already service-connected disability.

A

Mixed initial claim

A claimed condition may be secondary to another condition included in the same filing.

B

Existing primary disability

A new condition may be claimed secondary to a disability the VA has already service connected.

STEP 04

USE THE TAILORED PREPARATION PORTAL

COND

Condition guides

Open the matching rating, evidence, examination, and claim-development material.

PAIR

Pairing guides

Where available, open the specific secondary-condition guide for the claimed direction.

FILE

Filing resources

Use the claim guide, evidence tools, readiness check, and official VA filing links.

THE TOOL DOES NOT FILE

Selections stay within an educational routing experience. The veteran must still verify the claim lane, complete the current official forms, submit evidence, and file through an accepted VA channel.

