



A section-by-section orientation to the disability compensation application.

USE New disability and increase claims	BEFORE SIGNING Review every claimed condition	OFFICIAL SOURCE Use the current VA form
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READ FIRST

VA Form 21-526EZ opens the disability compensation claim. The current official form and its instructions control. This visual shows what information belongs in each major part.

FORM FRONT

IDENTITY, CONTACT, AND CLAIMANT STATUS

Identification

Name, Social Security number, VA file number if assigned, date of birth, and service number where requested.

Contact

Current mailing address, telephone, email, and any temporary or alternate address information.

Claimant status

Identify the veteran or other eligible claimant and complete the sections that apply to the filing party.

SERVICE BLOCK

MILITARY SERVICE INFORMATION

DATES

Periods of service

Enter the branches, component, entry and separation dates, and other requested service periods accurately.

UNIT

Service details

Provide Guard, Reserve, active-duty, and separation information when applicable.

PAY

Pay and status questions

Answer retired pay, severance, drill pay, and related questions using the form instructions.

DISABILITY BLOCK

LIST EVERY CONDITION AND HOW IT IS RELATED

CONDITION	HOW RELATED	APPROXIMATE ONSET
Use a clear medical or filing term	Direct, secondary, presumptive, increase, or other applicable basis	Month and year if known, or a truthful approximate period
Use a separate entry for each issue	Name the primary disability for a secondary claim	Do not invent precision when records only support a range

EVIDENCE AND CERTIFICATION

FINISH THE APPLICATION



Identify treatment and records

List relevant VA, military, private, and other sources requested by the form.



Attach supporting forms

Add releases, stressor forms, TDIU forms, lay statements, and other issue-specific documents as needed.



Select the development path accurately

Use FDC only when the certification is true. Otherwise use the Standard path.



Read certifications and authorizations

Understand what is being certified before signing.



Sign and date

An incomplete or unsigned submission can create avoidable processing problems.



Keep the exact submitted copy

Preserve the form, attachments, and proof of receipt together.

USE THE CURRENT FORM

Section numbers, edition dates, and instructions can change. Download the current VA Form 21-526EZ from VA.gov immediately before filing.