



INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY

TDIU AND SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION (S)

A narrow but important rule applies when one disability alone supports TDIU.

38 C.F.R. 4.16

BRADLEY PATHWAY

CHECK THE ELEMENTS SEPARATELY

1

Can one service-connected disability alone support TDIU?

A TDIU based on multiple disabilities generally does not satisfy the single total-disability element for this pathway.

2

Are there separate additional service-connected disabilities?

They must be distinct from the disability supporting TDIU.

3

Do the separate disabilities independently combine to at least 60 percent?

Apply VA combined-ratings rules to the separate set.

4

If both elements are present, review SMC-S entitlement

VA must consider SMC when the record reasonably raises entitlement.

DO NOT CONFUSE

TWO DIFFERENT SMC-S ROUTES

RATED ROUTE

One disability rated as total, plus separate disability or disabilities independently rated at 60 percent or more.

OR

HOUSEBOUND ROUTE

Permanently housebound in fact due to service-connected disability.

