

Documents required for filing a Disability Claim:

* **Complete copy of Medical Record** (We highly recommend that you make another copy for yourself). If you have pending medical treatments or a separation/retirement physical, you can bring copies of those later for follow-up filings. No need to complete your final military physical exam. A copy of your medical record may be requested from the records section of your respective military medical facility. It typically takes 30 to 45 days to receive a copy.

* **Copy of medical records from a civilian care provider**, if applicable. Bring copies of these documents as they may be used to support your claim.

* **Copy of marriage certificate, if applicable** (VA pays more if you have dependents).

* **Copy of children's birth certificates, applicable** (For the same reason as above).

* **Copy of divorce decree or dissolution of marriage, if any**

* **Social Security Numbers of spouse and dependent children**, if applicable.

* (When received at discharge) **certified copy of DD-214 ("member-4 copy")** NOTE: DD-214 is not required during initial appointment unless you've already been discharged. If you're in the neighborhood, you can bring your original with you and drop it off my office in NAS Whidbey Seaplane Base (Bldg 13) or at the Navy Exchange complex located in Smokey Point, Everett and I can certify it there. You don't need a DD-214 to submit a claim. The VA will need it so they can confirm that you've become a veteran so they can send you your veteran's benefits.

* Name, address and phone number of next of kin who does not live with you in case the VA is unable to contact you using your current mailing address (ex. you moved without notifying the VA of your new address).

* VA forms 21-526 and 21-22 (provided by TSO on day of appointment or available for download from the website)

Remember to submit a "certified" copy (not notarized) of your DD-214 (Member-4 copy) to the DAV/TSO (Perry) so the VA Pre-separation Office will know that you've already separated and prompts them to send you your disability award letter. You can expect your disability award to be sent to you via mail with 30 to 60 days.

You can snail mail it or hand it personally to the DAV/TSO. FAX copies will not be accepted by the VA.

Mail to:

Perry Fernandez, *Transition Service Officer* (TSO)

Disabled American Veterans

Seaplane Base, Bldg 13

260 W PIONEER WAY

OAK HARBOR WA 98278

(360) 257-4805

For any inquiries about the status of your claim after it's been submitted, call
1-800-TAP-1000