

VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.
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December 31, 2021

Filing a VA claim for disability compensation

VA disability compensation benefits are a monthly, tax-free payment to Veterans who were injured, sustained a long-term illness or experienced a worsening medical condition during their military service.

In addition to compensating Veterans whose disabilities incurred while serving in the military, Veterans may also be granted compensation for specific post-service medical conditions that arose because of their military service. Known as presumptive disabilities, these conditions may not have arisen in service but may be granted as service-connected because its occurrence can be linked directly to military service.

VA recently added new medical conditions to a growing list of presumptive disabilities, which you can view [here](#). These conditions can be presumed to have occurred because of an exposure to Agent Orange, ionizing radiation, and service in the Gulf War.

How to file a claim for disability compensation

The COVID-19 pandemic has not halted the claims process. Veterans can still file claims, and VA is still processing them. VA recommends filing a claim online, but it can still be done in person or through the mail. To get started, visit the [VA disability compensation webpage](#) and follow the steps listed below.

Step One: Prepare documents before starting your application

Gather any [evidence](#), documentation and/or required forms that support your claim before beginning your application. This might include:

A completed [Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits Form \(VA Form 21-526EZ\)](#),

Private medical records related to your condition, and/or

Military personnel records

You must include both the required and (if necessary) supplementary documents or your application will be voided. In some cases, you may need to turn in [one or more forms](#) to support your claim.

Step Two: File your claim

There are three ways to file a claim: online, in person (with a VA representative, or with a Veterans Service Organization) or through the mail. Online applications are simple and easy to complete. You can access the application by visiting the [Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits webpage](#), then sign into your VA.gov account (or create a new account at the [ID.me website](#)). You can save your progress online for up to one year before the application expires.

If you do not have access to a computer or internet device, VA also accepts printed disability claim applications that can be filed either in person or through the mail. In person applications can be submitted to your local VA regional office. Visit [VA.gov/find-locations](#) to find a VA regional office in your state. If you wish to mail your application, please do so by sending it to the following address:

Step Three: VA will review your claim and notify you of its decision

VA [may require a few months](#) to make a decision on claim applications. The time it takes to review your application depends on three factors:

The type of claim filed
How many injuries or disabilities claimed and how complex they are, and/or
[How long it takes VA to collect additional evidence](#) needed to decide your claim. This evidence may include service treatment records, service personnel records, private and federal treatment records, and [compensation and pension exams](#).

Once your disability claim application has been reviewed and all required documentation has been received, VA will decide on your claim and send you a notification letter of its decision. The notification letter will include specific details regarding the decisions made on your claim. You can expect to receive your notification letter 7 to 10 business days after a decision is made. Please contact a [VA call center](#) if it does not arrive within this period.

Step Four: After you receive a decision

You may ask for a second review if you are not satisfied with VA's decision. Veterans who filed a claim on or after February 19, 2019, may choose from three application review options. The first, a [Supplemental Claim](#), allows you to add new and relevant evidence (that VA doesn't already have). The second, a [Higher-Level Review](#), asks for a senior reviewer to examine your case. This option does not allow you to edit or add to your current application. And lastly, a [Board Appeal](#) requests a Veterans Law Judge with the Board of Veterans' Appeals to review your application.

If you have any questions or concerns before, during or after submitting a request to have your decision reviewed, please visit the [VA Decision Reviews and Appeals website](#).

For more information

Life comes with plenty of challenges, but ensuring the wellbeing of you and your family should not be one of them. Visit [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) to learn more about VA benefits and services.

If you wish to learn more about the claims process, visit the [VAntage Point](#) blog platform to keep up to date on disability claims and benefit eligibility requirements.

For more general information on the VA disability compensation and the process, [click here](#). For more on eligibility, [click here](#). You can also watch this [video series](#) produced by the Office of Information and Technology (OIT).

To request additional help filing a disability claim, learn more about [accredited representatives](#) or contact a VA regional office near you to speak with a counselor by calling 800-827-1000.

Department of Veterans Affairs, Claims Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444

For all the issues above I use the Vet Center, it's a third-party organization that is accepted by the VA. They will file on your behalf

[Editor: Vet Centers ARE VA. Fine one, here: <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>]

Linda & GARY OLSON December 30, 2021 at 1:48 pm - Reply

Linda – 12/30/21 – On behalf of husband, we've tried for YEARS to get help! The VSO that was to help us, did little but we are at 70% now, thank God, after 12 years of filing paper and more paper! Prostate CA, with subsequent Urinary tract and bladder problems, so severe, not much left for bladder to operate properly. Always denied further compensation, and since two years ago another diagnosis has been made: Pulmonary Fibrosis and breathing problems which are getting super painful. He cannot go outside, cannot walk dogs or do anything around the house. He gets winded just going to kitchen to eat! Many tests being done lately, and we hope someone will really LOOK and READ what doctors are saying! This PF is killing my hubby and I guess that's when we'll hear something! PLEASE VA Board or whoever is making decisions, look at our plea and make a positive decision before he dies! Our lives have changed so much we can't get to church anymore, much less volunteer for anything. The 24/7 oxygen tanks must accompany us now! Even a video conference was messed up—they could NOT transcribe it!! I probably had better records in my shorthand notes!! LOL!! Thanks for listening!

How to study the Bible consistently: 4 hacks from YouVersion



The start of a new year brings many possibilities, which makes it the perfect time to create new Bible reading habits. But, busy schedules, family obligations, and conflicting priorities can make studying Scripture feel challenging at times.

Thankfully, there are steps you can take toward consistently reading God’s Word.

Here are 4 Bible habit hacks you can do with YouVersion:

1. Make it stick

The easiest way to create a new habit is by linking it to something you already do consistently. So if the first thing you do in the morning is reach for your phone, try reflecting on YouVersion’s Verse of the Day. When you combine a new habit with an already established one, it gives your new habit more “stickiness.”

Tip: Make YouVersion the first app you see, and get instant access to the Verse of the Day, by enabling the Verse of the Day widget on your phone. Learn how to enable widgets [here](#).

2. Make it automatic

The best way to build a habit is just to start. And as you get started, don’t focus on the amount of time you’re reading or listening to Scripture, just focus on doing it regularly. Once you complete two days in a row, go for three. Once you complete three days, try for five, and keep going until you’ve built a Bible streak.

If you're starting to build a consistent Bible habit, pick a time to study that works for you, and set up daily reminders to spend time in God's Word.

Tip: Keep up your momentum by viewing your Bible streak on your YouVersion Home Feed. You can also set up Plan, Prayer, and Verse of the Day Reminders [here](#).

3. Stay connected

You're more likely to keep studying your Bible if you do it alongside someone who cares about your spiritual growth.

Plans with Friends offers a simple, easy way to make sure you continue building your Bible study habit.

There are thousands of Plans in YouVersion, so simply pick a Plan that interests you, and start it with Friends. At the end of each Plan day, you'll be given a space to chat with your Friends about what you discovered.

Tip: You can do a Plan with anybody! Simply share a Plan link on social media, or share a Plan with someone within the app. Get started by choosing a [Plan](#), and follow the prompts to invite Friends to join you.

4. Make it feel new

Sometimes, the reason we get in a Bible reading rut is because what we're doing feels too familiar. Switch up how you engage with the Bible.

If you typically read Scripture, try listening to an audio Bible. If you tend to study Scripture in one specific version, switch to a different version for a month and see if anything new stands out to you. Or, try reading in a new order to gain a fresh perspective.

Tips: To easily compare Bible versions, tap a verse, and then select the "Compare" button that appears. And, you can listen to any portion of Scripture with [audio Bibles](#)

Making the Bible a part of your everyday life doesn't have to be daunting—and thankfully, we don't have to do it alone. God loves to come alongside us to encourage and empower us by renewing and transforming our minds. [He reveals Himself to anyone searching for Him.](#)

The more you build your habits, [the easier it becomes to recognize God's voice and understand what His will truly is.](#)

As you commit to studying Scripture regularly, remember that the God who created you can also enable you to break through the resistance that holds you back, so that you can consistently engage with His living and active Word



Verse of the Day

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 4:11 KJV

YOU TOO CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.

Sign up online to become an associate member. The annual associate membership of \$120.00 which can be used as a tax deduction for supporters. Registration fees can be paid online through our PayPal account. You will get a free VFC T-shirt with your associate membership. Your tax deductible membership fee will support the VFC mission.

All Honorably Discharged Veterans are welcome to come and observe the VFC; feel free to ask questions and learn more. If we don't know the answer we know someone who does. Please browse our web site www.veteransforchristinc.org. There you'll find information on many subjects of interest to veterans. You'll also find a Newsletter for your branch of service and links to Social Security and many other links with an abundance of information.

Our monthly meetings are on hold until the pandemic is cleared and a vaccine is developed. No meetings are being held at the Wesley Chapel Library at 2861 Wesley Chapel Rd., Decatur, Ga. Our meetings are the fourth Wednesday of every month and start at 6:30 (PM) for approximately one hour and a half, unless otherwise advertised. We will be respectful of your time.

Thank you for your interest in the VFC. We look forward to communicating and fellowshiping with you soon. We are looking for a corporate sponsor for our VFC Gerald Prince College Scholarship which is donated each September at our Anniversary Luncheon

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong." 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely,

William A. Harris, Jr.

William A. Harris, Jr., USAF Retired
President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.

www.veteransforchristinc.org

Need to contact VA?

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255

Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat

White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311

Don't know what number to call?

1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) is never the wrong number