

EXHIBIT 1



March 1, 2024

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

We made a decision on your VA benefits.

Dear [Redacted]

This letter will guide you through the information you should know and steps you may take now that VA has made a decision about your benefits.

Your Benefit Information:

- The previous denial of service connection for tinnitus is confirmed and continued.

What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision

If you do not agree with our decision, you have one year from the date of this letter to select a review option in order to protect your initial filing date for effective date purposes. You must file your request on the required application form for the review option desired. The table below represents the review options and their respective required application form.

Review Option	Required Application Form
Supplemental Claim	VA Form 20-0995, <i>Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim</i>
Higher-Level Review	VA Form 20-0996, <i>Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review</i>
Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals	VA Form 10182, <i>Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)</i>

Please note: You may not request a higher-level review of a higher-level review decision issued by VA.

We have included with this letter:

- Additional Benefits
- Where to Send Your Correspondence
- VA Form 20-0998
- Rating Decision
- Fraud Prevention Attachment

Contact information:

Web: www.vets.gov
Phone: 1-800-827-1000
TDD: 711
To send questions online: visit <https://iris.custhelp.com/>

Social Media:

Twitter: @VAVetBenefits
Facebook: www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits

How to obtain representation:

We have no record of you appointing an accredited representative. Accredited representatives are trained to help you understand and apply for VA benefits. For more information about how an accredited representative can help you, please visit: <https://www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/apply-for-benefits/help/>

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the *Veterans Crisis Line* at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

[Redacted]

File Number:


The enclosed VA Form 20-0998, *Your Right To Seek Review Of Our Decision*, explains your options in greater detail and provides instructions on how to request further review. You may download a copy of any of the required application forms noted above by visiting www.va.gov/vaforms/ or you may contact us by telephone at 1-800-827-1000 and we will mail you any form you need.

You can visit www.va.gov/decision-reviews to learn more about how the disagreement process works.

Important: If you have a service-connected condition which you feel has worsened and is no longer accurately reflected by the level of disability assigned, please use VA Form 21-526EZ, *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits* to request an increased evaluation. However, if you disagree with a decision made within the last year, please refer to the enclosed VA Form 20-0998, *Your Right To Seek Review Of Our Decision*. If you would like us to review a claim that was denied more than one year ago, and you have new and relevant evidence for us to consider, please use VA Form 20-0995, *Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim*.

If you would like to obtain or access evidence used in making this decision, please contact us by telephone, email, or letter as noted below letting us know what you would like to obtain. Some evidence may be obtained online by visiting www.va.gov.

Thank you for your service,

Regional Office Director



Additional Benefits

Medical Care and Treatment:

- Mental Health Counseling: For more information, please visit www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/.
- Blind Rehabilitation: For more information, please visit www.va.gov/blindrehab/.

Home Adaptations/Loans, Automobile Benefits, and Life Insurance:

- Loans: For more information, please visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/.
- Funding Fee Refund: If you paid a funding fee at the closing of a VA guaranteed home loan and your VA compensation award provides an effective rating date that was prior to your loan closing date, then you may be eligible for a funding fee refund. Please contact either your current mortgage servicer or a VA Regional Loan Center at (877) 827-3702 to begin the refund process.

Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange:

- You may be entitled to Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange privileges. Honorably discharged Veterans with a service-connected disability; Former Prisoners of War; Purple Heart or Medal of Honor recipients; military retirees; members of the reserves; and their dependents may qualify for entitlement to this additional benefit. For more information, please visit va.gov/resources/commissary-and-exchange-privileges-for-veterans.

Veterans Signals (VSignals), a VA Customer Experience Survey

VA is conducting short surveys to gather feedback regarding the new decision review process. VA will randomly select survey participants from individuals who filed a request for a decision review. The survey will be sent via email and should take less than three minutes to complete. If selected, you will receive a survey within 10 days of the date on your notification letter. To be considered for VA surveys, please review your va.gov profile and ensure we have your current email address. The survey may not route to your inbox, so please check your junk folder.

Where to Send Your Correspondence

Documents may be submitted by mail, in person at a VA regional office or electronically. However, VA recommends submitting correspondence electronically as this is the fastest method of receipt.

VA provides several tools to assist in electronic submission. To learn more about how to submit documents and claims electronically, visit www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence. You can also go directly to access.va.gov to digitally upload any correspondence using QuickSubmit.

By visiting www.va.gov you can also check your claim status and learn about other VA benefits.

If you need assistance, you can find a local, accredited representative at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/>

If you prefer to mail your correspondence, please use the related mailing address below:

<p>Compensation Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 531-7818</p>	<p>Pension & Survivors Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Intake Center P.O. Box 5365 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 655-1604</p>
<p>Board of Veterans' Appeals Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals P.O. Box 27063 Washington, DC 20038 Toll Free Fax: (844) 678-8979</p>	<p>Fiduciary Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Intake Center P.O. Box 5211 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (888) 581-6826</p>




These addresses serve **all United States and foreign locations.**



You can also send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. For more information, visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

YOUR RIGHT TO SEEK REVIEW OF OUR DECISION

This document outlines your right to seek review of our decision on any issue with which you disagree. You may generally select one of three different review options for each issue decided by VA. However, you may not request review of the same issue using more than one option at the same time. Below is information on the three different review options.

	Supplemental Claim	Higher-Level Review	Board Appeal
What Is This?	A reviewer will determine whether new and relevant evidence changes the prior decision.	An experienced claims adjudicator will review your decision using the same evidence VA considered in the prior decision.	A Veterans Law Judge at the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) will review your decision.
By Selecting This Option	<p>You are adding or identifying new and relevant evidence to support your claim that we did not previously consider.</p> <p>VA will assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence that you identify to support your claim.</p>	<p>You have no additional evidence to submit to support your claim, but you believe there was an error in the prior decision.</p> <p>You can request an optional, one-time, informal conference with a Higher-Level Reviewer to identify specific errors in the case, although requesting this conference may delay the review.</p>	<p>You must choose a docket:</p> <p>Direct Review - You do not want to submit evidence or have a hearing.</p> <p>Evidence Submission - You choose to submit additional evidence without a hearing.</p> <p>Hearing - You choose to have a hearing with a Veterans Law Judge.</p>
Goal To Complete	125 days on average	125 days on average	365 days on average for Direct Review (longer for the other options)
Form To File*	VA Form 20-0995, <i>Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim</i>	VA Form 20-0996, <i>Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review</i>	VA Form 10182, <i>Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)</i>
Scan QR Code to Access Form			
Further Options After This Decision Review	You may request another Supplemental Claim, a Higher-Level Review, or a Board Appeal.	You may request a Supplemental Claim or a Board Appeal.	You may request a Supplemental Claim or appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.



For most VA benefits, you have 1 year from the date on your decision notice to request a decision review to ensure the earliest possible effective date. Consult your decision notice for specific limitations.

* All forms listed are available at www.va.gov/find-forms/ or use your mobile device camera to scan the QR code to take you directly to the form you select.

If you do not submit a decision review request within the required time, you may only seek review through the following:

- A request to revise the decision based on a clear and unmistakable error, or
- A Supplemental Claim. If you file a Supplemental Claim after the **1-year** time limit, the effective date for any resulting award of benefits generally will be tied to the date VA receives the Supplemental Claim.

While most decision review options are available to you, there are limitations based on the type of decision you received.

- If you are a party to a **contested claim** - such as claims for apportionment, attorney fee disagreement, or multiple parties filing for survivor's benefits - your *only* option for disagreeing with your decision is to file a Board Appeal within **60 days** of the date on your decision notice.
- If you are seeking review of an **insurance decision** you have an *additional* option to challenge VA's decision by filing a complaint with a United States district court in the jurisdiction in which you reside within 6 years from when the right of action first accrues. Consult your decision notice for details on what options are available and where to send the request.

Get Help with Your Review Request:

For more information on all the available review options, contact us at 1-800-827-1000 or visit www.va.gov/decision-reviews/. If you need help filing a decision review, you may want to work with an accredited attorney, claims agent, or a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representative. Additional information about working with an accredited attorney, claims agent, or VSO representative is available at www.va.gov/decision-reviews/get-help-with-review-request/. You can find a searchable database of VA-recognized representatives at www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation.

Scan the QR Code to Open the Appropriate Decision Review Website Page



**Supplemental
Claim**



**Higher-Level
Review**



**Board
Appeal**

EXHIBIT 2



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Board of Veterans' Appeals
Washington, DC**

March 5, 2024

In Reply Refer To [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) received your Board Appeal request (VA Form 10182) on February 21, 2024. Based on the Board appeal option you selected on the form, your appeal has been placed on the Direct Review docket.

What happens next?

Please keep in mind that by selecting the Direct Review option, the Board can only consider evidence of record at the time of the agency of original jurisdiction decision being appealed.

You submitted additional documents and/or statements on or with your February 21, 2024, VA Form 10182. Please note that because you selected the Direct Review option, any additional evidence you submitted on or with your VA Form 10182 cannot legally be considered by the Board. If you want the Board to consider any additional evidence for the issue(s) listed on your February 21, 2024, VA Form 10182, you must change your Board appeal request by switching AMA dockets (to Evidence Submission or Hearing), as explained below. If your request is approved, you will then have the opportunity to submit any additional evidence you want the Board to consider.

What if I want to change my Board appeal request by switching AMA dockets?

You may request to change from the Direct Review docket to another Board AMA docket by submitting a new VA Form 10182 with the new docket choice (Evidence Submission or Hearing) and a list of issues you want considered under the new docket. This form is available at <https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews/board-appeal>.

[REDACTED]

2.

Typically, requests to change AMA dockets must be filed at the Board within 60 days of the date the Board received the VA Form 10182 that you have already submitted, or within one year of the VA decision being appealed, whichever date is later. However, **you may submit an extension request if you have good cause.** To request an extension of time to submit a docket switch request, please note the reasons why you believe there is good cause for a late submission on or with your VA Form 10182 docket switch request.

What if I would like my case advanced on the Board's docket?

If you are suffering from a serious illness, are under severe financial hardship, or have other sufficient cause, you can request to have your appeal "Advanced on the Docket," or moved to the front of the line. If you are age 75 or older, your appeal will automatically be prioritized and you do not have to submit anything further.

To request advancement on the docket, you must submit a brief explanation of the reasons why the Board should prioritize your case. You should also include documentation that supports your explanation. For example, if you have:

- **Severe financial hardship:** Examples of evidence you may submit to demonstrate severe financial hardship include, but are not limited to, evidence you are experiencing homelessness, a home foreclosure or eviction notice, or a financial status report (VA Form 5655).
- **Serious illness:** An example of evidence you may submit to demonstrate serious illness includes, but is not limited to, a physician's statement documenting terminal or serious illness, preferably with clinical findings.

What if I want to change my representation?

You have 90 days from the date the Board receives your VA Form 10182 or until the Board issues a decision (whichever comes first) to change your representative. To change your representative, please submit a VA Form 21-22 if you would like to appoint a Veterans Service Organization (VSO), or a VA Form 21-22a if you would like to appoint an individual (including an accredited claims agent or attorney) as your representative. For a comprehensive list of attorneys and VSOs please visit <http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp>.

3.

[REDACTED]

How do I send documents to the Board?

All correspondence, requests, and evidence you send to the Board should include your name, the Veteran's name (if you are not the Veteran), and the Veteran's VA file number. Mail or fax documents to:

Board of Veterans' Appeals
P.O. Box 27063
Washington, DC 20038
Fax: 1-844-678-8979

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about your appeal, contact your representative (if you have one) or visit <http://www.va.gov/decision-reviews>. You may also contact VA at **1-800-827-1000** from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday. To check the status of your appeal, visit <http://www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status/>.

Sincerely,

Inbound Operations Branch
Office of the Clerk of the Board
Board of Veterans' Appeals

cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 3



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

January 11, 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In reply, refer to:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

IMPORTANT

Dear [REDACTED]

We received your correspondence indicating that you would like to file a claim for benefits. Specifically, you indicated that you would like to file a claim for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (also claimed as acquired psychiatric disorder). VA regulations now require all claims to be submitted on a standardized form.

What Should You Do?

In order for us to begin processing your claim for compensation, you must complete, sign, and return a VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits. You may also submit your claim through eBenefits. For more information regarding eBenefits, please see below.

If you would like to submit a new intent to file, you may do so using one of the following methods:

- Visit www.va.gov and initiate an application for benefits (compensation only). This will protect your date of claim similar to VA Form 21-0966, Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension Benefits.
- Call us at 1-800-827-1000 to submit an intent to file over the telephone. If you use a

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal number is 711.

- Complete, sign, and return a VA Form 21-0966, Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension Benefits.

We will take no further action until we receive your completed application for benefits or complete intent to file. To locate the appropriate form(s), please visit the following website: www.va.gov/vaforms.

What is VA.gov?

VA.gov provides electronic resources in a self-service environment to Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families. Use of these resources often helps us serve you faster! Through the VA.gov website you can:

- Submit claims for benefits and/or upload documents directly to the VA
- Request to add or change your dependents
- Update your contact and direct deposit information and view payment history
- Track the status of your claim or appeal
- Obtain verification of military service, civil service preference, or VA benefits
- And much more!

Enrolling in VA.gov is easy. Just visit www.va.gov for more information. If you submit a claim in the future, consider filing through VA.gov. Filing electronically, especially if you participate in our fully developed claim program, may result in a faster decision than if you submit your claim through the mail.

Where to Send Written Records

Please mail all written responses to the **Compensation Benefits** address listed on the attached Where to Send Your Correspondence chart.

If You Have Questions or Need Assistance

If you have any questions or need assistance with this claim, you may contact us by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

If you	Here is what to do.
Telephone	Call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal number is 711.
Use the Internet	Send electronic inquiries through the Internet at https://www.va.gov/contact-us/ .
Write	VA now uses a centralized mail system. For all written communications, put your full name and VA file number on the letter. Please mail all written correspondence to the appropriate address listed on the attached Where to Send Your Written Correspondence chart, below.

In all cases, be sure to refer to your VA file number [REDACTED]

If you are looking for general information about benefits and eligibility, you should visit our web site at <https://www.va.gov>, or contact us, or explore our FAQs and other resources at <https://www.va.gov/contact-us/>.

We sent a copy of this letter to [REDACTED] who you have appointed as your representative(s). If you have questions or need assistance, you can also contact your representative.

Respectfully,

Regional Office Director

Enclosure(s): Where To Send Your Correspondence

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Where to Send Your Correspondence

Documents may be submitted by mail, in person at a VA regional office or electronically. However, VA recommends submitting correspondence electronically as this is the fastest method of receipt.

VA provides several tools to assist in electronic submission. To learn more about how to submit documents and claims electronically, visit www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence. You can also go directly to access.va.gov to digitally upload any correspondence using QuickSubmit.

By visiting www.va.gov you can also check your claim status and learn about other VA benefits.

If you need assistance, you can find a local, accredited representative at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/>

If you prefer to mail your correspondence, please use the related mailing address below:

<p>Compensation Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 531-7818</p>	<p>Pension & Survivors Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Intake Center P.O. Box 5365 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 655-1604</p>
<p>Board of Veterans' Appeals Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals P.O. Box 27063 Washington, DC 20038 Toll Free Fax: (844) 678-8979</p>	<p>Fiduciary Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Intake Center P.O. Box 5211 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (888) 581-6826</p>

These addresses serve all United States and foreign locations.



You can also send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. For more information, visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

EXHIBIT 4



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

March 1, 2024

[Redacted]

In reply, refer to:

[Redacted]

IMPORTANT

Dear [Redacted]

We received mail indicating that you would like us to review a claim for acquired psychiatric disorder, to include posttraumatic stress disorder (ptsd) an depression that we previously denied. VA regulations require you to file this request on the proper form.

What Should You Do?

To begin processing your request, you must review the table below regarding the proper form to use. Then, complete, sign, and return that form to us. If you do not feel ready to submit your claim, you may also submit an intent to file identifying the general benefit(s) you are seeking. If a completed application is received within one year from the date that a complete intent to file is received and we decide that you are entitled to VA benefits, we may be able to compensate you from the date we received your complete intent to file.

Your Situation	Form to use
VA last made a decision on the claimed issue less than one year ago, and you have no new evidence to submit for VA to consider.	VA Form 20-0996, <i>Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review</i>
You have new and relevant evidence to submit for VA to consider.	VA Form 20-0995, <i>Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim</i>

VA last made a decision on the claimed issue less than one year ago, and you want to have the decision reviewed by the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

VA Form 10182, *Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)*

We will take no further action until we receive your completed form. To locate these forms, go to the website www.va.gov/vaforms, or call us at 1-800-827-1000.

If VA last made a decision on the claimed issue less than one year ago, and you want to have the decision reviewed by the Board of Veterans' Appeals, please complete a VA Form 10182, *Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)*.

Veterans Signals (VSignals), a VA Customer Experience Survey

VA is conducting short surveys to gather feedback regarding the new decision review process. VA will randomly select survey participants from individuals who filed a request for a decision review. The survey will be sent via email and should take less than three minutes to complete. If selected, you will receive a survey within 10 days of the date on your notification letter. To be considered for VA surveys, please review your va.gov profile and ensure we have your current email address. The survey may not route to your inbox, so please check your junk folder.

What is VA.gov?

VA.gov provides electronic resources in a self-service environment to Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families. Use of these resources often helps us serve you faster! Through the VA.gov website you can:

- Submit claims for benefits and/or upload documents directly to the VA
- Request to add or change your dependents
- Update your contact and direct deposit information and view payment history
- Track the status of your claim or appeal
- Obtain verification of military service, civil service preference, or VA benefits
- And much more!

Enrolling in VA.gov is easy. Just visit www.va.gov for more information. If you submit a claim in the future, consider filing through VA.gov. Filing electronically, especially if you participate in our fully developed claim program, may result in a faster decision than if you submit your claim through the mail.

Where to Send Written Records

Please mail all written responses to the **Compensation Benefits** address listed on the attached Where to Send Your Correspondence chart.

If You Have Questions or Need Assistance

If you have any questions or need assistance with this claim, you may contact us by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

If you	Here is what to do.
Telephone	Call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal number is 711.
Use the Internet	Send electronic inquiries through the Internet at https://www.va.gov/contact-us/ .
Write	VA now uses a centralized mail system. For all written communications, put your full name and VA file number on the letter. Please mail all written correspondence to the appropriate address listed on the attached Where to Send Your Written Correspondence chart, below.

In all cases, be sure to refer to your VA file number [REDACTED]

If you are looking for general information about benefits and eligibility, you should visit our web site at <https://www.va.gov>, or contact us, or explore our FAQs and other resources at <https://www.va.gov/contact-us/>.

We sent a copy of this letter to [REDACTED] who you have appointed as your representative(s). If you have questions or need assistance, you can also contact your representative.

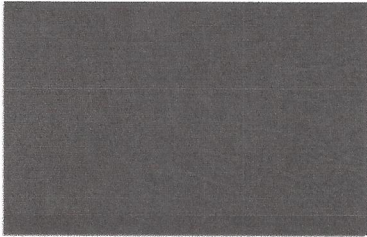
Respectfully,



Regional Office Director

Enclosure(s): Where To Send Your Correspondence

cc:



Where to Send Your Correspondence

Documents may be submitted by mail, in person at a VA regional office or electronically. However, VA recommends submitting correspondence electronically as this is the fastest method of receipt.

VA provides several tools to assist in electronic submission. To learn more about how to submit documents and claims electronically, visit www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence. You can also go directly to access.va.gov to digitally upload any correspondence using QuickSubmit.

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If you need assistance, you can find a local, accredited representative at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/>

If you prefer to mail your correspondence, please use the related mailing address below:

<p>Compensation Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 531-7818</p>	<p>Pension & Survivors Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Intake Center P.O. Box 5365 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 655-1604</p>
<p>Board of Veterans' Appeals Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals P.O. Box 27063 Washington, DC 20038 Toll Free Fax: (844) 678-8979</p>	<p>Fiduciary Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Intake Center P.O. Box 5211 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (888) 581-6826</p>

These addresses serve all United States and foreign locations.



You can also send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. For more information, visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

EXHIBIT 5



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Board of Veterans' Appeals
Washington, DC

February 12, 2024

In Reply Refer To [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

The Board of Veterans' Appeals received your August 15, 2020 notice of disagreement, which you submitted using a VA Form 10182. However, a VA Form 10182 can only be submitted to initiate an appeal for VA decisions adjudicated in the modernized review system created by the Appeals Modernization Act (AMA).

The VA decision you disagree with was issued before February 19, 2019, and a Statement of the Case or Supplemental Statement of the Case dated on or after February 19, 2019 has not yet been issued. Accordingly, the VA decision you disagree with is still in the legacy (non-modernized) system.

If you would like to initiate an appeal of the legacy VA decision, you must file a VA Form 21-0958 Notice of Disagreement with the VA office that issued the legacy decision. **The VA Form 21-0958 must be filed within one year of the date on your VA decision notification letter.** However, if more than one year has passed since the date of your VA decision notification letter, you may submit a good cause extension request with your VA Form 21-0958 to the VA office that issued your decision letter. If you did not receive a copy of the VA Form 21-0958 with your VA decision notification letter, or you need a new one, a copy of this form is attached.

If you have already filed a VA Form 21-0958 Notice of Disagreement within 1 year of the date on your VA decision notification letter, you will be able to opt into the modernized review system if you receive a Statement of the Case or Supplemental Statement of the Case issued on or after February 19, 2019. To learn more, go to <https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews/>.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If you have any questions or concerns about this correspondence, please notify VA as soon as possible at **1-800-827-1000 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday**. To learn more about the legacy appeals process, contact your representative (if you have one) or visit <https://www.va.gov/decision-reviews/legacy-appeals/>.

Sincerely,

Inbound Operations Branch
Office of the Clerk of the Board
Board of Veterans' Appeals

CC: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT 6

February 13, 2024



We have included with this letter:

1. Additional Benefits
2. Where to Send Your Correspondence
3. VA Form 20-0998
4. Rating Decision
5. Fraud Prevention Attachment

Contact information:

Web: www.vets.gov
Phone: 1-800-827-1000
TDD: 711
To send questions online: visit
<https://iris.custhelp.com/>

Social Media:

Twitter: @VAVetBenefits
Facebook: www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits

Your representative:

You appointed SARAJANE STENTON as your accredited representative. They have also received a copy of this letter.

They can help you with any questions you have about your claim.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the *Veterans Crisis Line* at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

We made a decision on your VA benefits.

This letter will guide you through the information you should know and steps you may take now that VA has made a decision about your benefits.

Your Benefit Information:

- Service connection for left hip trochanteric pain syndrome with limitation of flexion (claimed as hip problems) as secondary to the service-connected disability of levoscoliosis with degenerative disc disease, lumbar spondylosis, s/p fusion is granted with an evaluation of 10 percent effective July 6, 2021.
- Service connection for left hip trochanteric pain syndrome with limitation of extension (claimed as hip problems) as secondary to the service-connected disability of levoscoliosis with degenerative disc disease, lumbar spondylosis, s/p fusion is granted with an evaluation of 0 percent effective July 6, 2021.
- Service connection for left hip trochanteric pain syndrome with thigh impairment (claimed as hip problems) as secondary to the service-connected disability of levoscoliosis with degenerative disc disease, lumbar spondylosis, s/p fusion is granted with an evaluation of 0 percent effective July 6, 2021.
- Evaluation of right hip, trochanteric pain syndrome, which is currently 10 percent disabling, is continued.
- Service connection for skin cancer as a result of exposure to herbicides is denied.
- A decision on entitlement to compensation for coronary artery disease (claimed as heart problems) is deferred.
- The claim for an increased evaluation for diabetes mellitus type II is deferred.

Your combined rating evaluation is:

Combined Rating Evaluation	Effective Date
10%	Jul 2, 1968
30%	Apr 27, 2012
30%	Jun 23, 2015
90%	Jul 6, 2021
90%	Aug 10, 2022

How VA Combines Percentages

If you have more than one condition, VA will combine percentages to determine your overall disability rating. The percentages assigned for each of your conditions may not always add up to your combined rating evaluation. The following website has additional information about how VA combines percentages: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp#howcalc>.

As a Veteran with a service-connected disability, you may be eligible for up to \$40,000 in VA life insurance benefits. Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) is guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance available to all service-connected, disabled veterans with no time limit to apply as long as you are age 80 or under. Veterans age 81 and over are still eligible in certain circumstances. Visit the VALife Insurance website, <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/valife/>, for further information.

Your monthly entitlement amount is shown below:

Monthly Entitlement Amount	Payment Start Date	Reason
\$96.00	Dec 1, 1998	Cost of Living Adjustment, Rating Effective Date for Conversion
\$98.00	Dec 1, 1999	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$101.00	Dec 1, 2000	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$103.00	Dec 1, 2001	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$104.00	Dec 1, 2002	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$106.00	Dec 1, 2003	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$108.00	Dec 1, 2004	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$112.00	Dec 1, 2005	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$115.00	Dec 1, 2006	Cost of Living Adjustment

Monthly Entitlement Amount	Payment Start Date	Reason
\$117.00	Dec 1, 2007	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$123.00	Dec 1, 2008	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$127.00	Dec 1, 2011	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$389.00	May 1, 2012	Compensation Rating Adjustment
\$395.00	Dec 1, 2012	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$400.93	Dec 1, 2013	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$400.93	Jan 1, 2014	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$407.75	Dec 1, 2014	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$408.97	Dec 1, 2016	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$417.15	Dec 1, 2017	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$428.83	Dec 1, 2018	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$435.69	Dec 1, 2019	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$441.35	Dec 1, 2020	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$2,044.18	Aug 1, 2021	Change in Spouse Status, Compensation Rating Adjustment
\$2,165.52	Dec 1, 2021	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$2,353.39	Dec 1, 2022	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$2,428.91	Dec 1, 2023	Cost of Living Adjustment

We are currently paying you as a Veteran with one dependent. *Let us know right away if there is any change in the status of your dependents.*

If payments are due, you should receive your first payment, if not already in receipt of payments, within 7-10 days of this notice.

What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision

If you do not agree with our decision, you have one year from the date of this letter to select a review option in order to protect your initial filing date for effective date purposes. You must file your request on the required application form for the review option desired. The table below represents the review options and their respective required application form.

[REDACTED]

Review Option	Required Application Form
Supplemental Claim	VA Form 20-0995, <i>Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim</i>
Higher-Level Review	VA Form 20-0996, <i>Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review</i>
Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals	VA Form 10182, <i>Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)</i>

Please note: You may not request a higher-level review of a higher-level review decision issued by VA.

The enclosed VA Form 20-0998, *Your Right To Seek Review Of Our Decision*, explains your options in greater detail and provides instructions on how to request further review. You may download a copy of any of the required application forms noted above by visiting www.va.gov/vaforms/ or you may contact us by telephone at 1-800-827-1000 and we will mail you any form you need.

You can visit www.va.gov/decision-reviews to learn more about how the disagreement process works.

Important: If you have a service-connected condition which you feel has worsened and is no longer accurately reflected by the level of disability assigned, please use VA Form 21-526EZ, *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits* to request an increased evaluation. However, if you disagree with a decision made within the last year, please refer to the enclosed VA Form 20-0998, *Your Right To Seek Review Of Our Decision*. If you would like us to review a claim that was denied more than one year ago, and you have new and relevant evidence for us to consider, please use VA Form 20-0995, *Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim*.

If you would like to obtain or access evidence used in making this decision, please contact us by telephone, email, or letter as noted below letting us know what you would like to obtain. Some evidence may be obtained online by visiting www.va.gov.

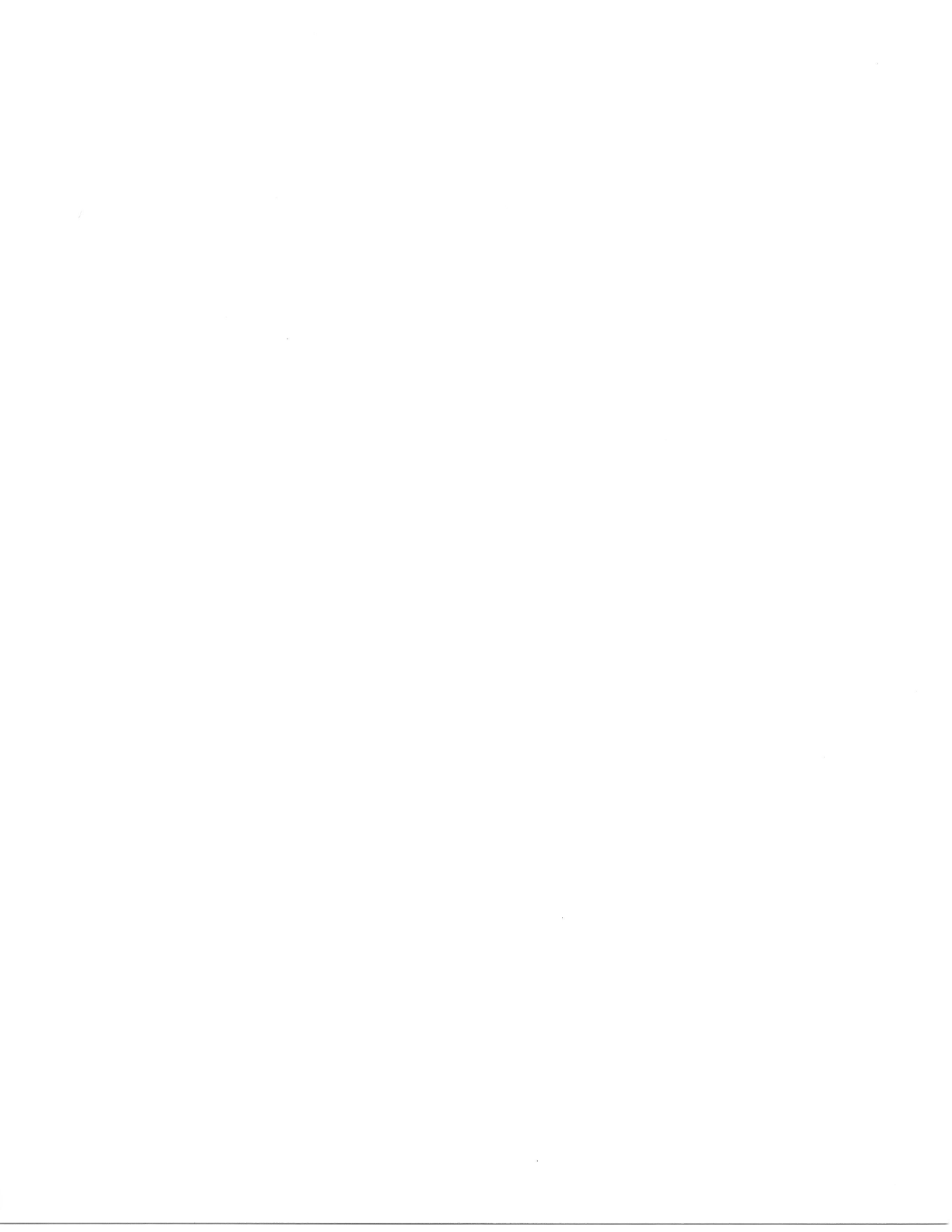
Thank you for your service,

cc:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

File Number: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



File Number: [REDACTED]

Your monthly entitlement amount includes payment for the following dependent(s):

Payment Start Date	Award Dependent(s)
Dec 1, 1998	None
Dec 1, 1999	None
Dec 1, 2000	None
Dec 1, 2001	None
Dec 1, 2002	None
Dec 1, 2003	None
Dec 1, 2004	None
Dec 1, 2005	None
Dec 1, 2006	None
Dec 1, 2007	None
Dec 1, 2008	None
Dec 1, 2011	None
May 1, 2012	None
Dec 1, 2012	None
Dec 1, 2013	None
Jan 1, 2014	None
Dec 1, 2014	None
Dec 1, 2016	None
Dec 1, 2017	None
Dec 1, 2018	None
Dec 1, 2019	None
Dec 1, 2020	None
Aug 1, 2021	ROBBIN
Dec 1, 2021	ROBBIN
Dec 1, 2022	ROBBIN
Dec 1, 2023	ROBBIN

File Number:
[REDACTED]

Let us know right away if there is any change in the status of your dependent(s).

Your combined evaluation is 30 percent or more disabling; therefore, you may be eligible for additional benefits based on dependency. We may be able to pay you retroactive benefits for your dependents if you submit your dependency claim within a year from the date of this letter. If you wish to notify us of your dependents, please do so through eBenefits, an electronic resource in a self-service environment. Use of these resources often helps us serve you faster! Just visit www.eBenefits.va.gov to enroll and submit your dependency information. If you would prefer to submit your request to add your dependents to your award in paper, please complete, sign, and return VA Form 21-686c, *Application Request to Add and/or Remove Dependents*. You can locate the appropriate form(s), please the visit the following website: www.va.gov/vaforms.

Additional Benefits

Education, Training, and Employment:

- Education, training, and employment: For more information, please call 1-800-827-1000 or visit www.va.gov/vre.

Medical Care and Treatment:

- Mental Health Counseling: For more information, please visit www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/.
- Blind Rehabilitation: For more information, please visit www.va.gov/blindrehab/.
- Change in Compensation Benefits: For more information, please call 1-877-222-VETS or visit www.va.gov/healtheligibility.
- Clothing Allowance: For more information, please call 1-800-827-1000 or visit www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/conditions/special-claims/clothing/.
- VA Medical Care: Present a copy of this notification letter to the Patient Registration/Eligibility Section at your nearest VA Medical Center www.vets.gov/facility-locator/.
- Dental Benefits: For more information, please contact your nearest VA Medical Center or outpatient clinic www.vets.gov/facility-locator/.

Home Adaptations/Loans, Automobile Benefits, and Life Insurance:

- Loans: For more information, please visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/.
- Funding Fee Refund: If you paid a funding fee at the closing of a VA guaranteed home loan and your VA compensation award provides an effective rating date that was prior to your loan closing date, then you may be eligible for a funding fee refund. Please contact either your current mortgage servicer or a VA Regional Loan Center at (877) 827-3702 to begin

the refund process.

- **Government life insurance:** As a Veteran with a service-connected disability, you may be eligible for up to \$40,000 in VA life insurance benefits. Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) is guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance available to all service-connected, disabled veterans with no time limit to apply as long as you are age 80 or under. Veterans age 81 and over are still eligible in certain circumstances. For more information on VALife, please visit <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/valife/>.

Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange:

- You may be entitled to Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange privileges. Honorably discharged Veterans with a service-connected disability; Former Prisoners of War; Purple Heart or Medal of Honor recipients; military retirees; members of the reserves; and their dependents may qualify for entitlement to this additional benefit. For more information, please visit va.gov/resources/commissary-and-exchange-privileges-for-veterans.

Payment for Travel:

- **Payment for Travel:** You may be eligible for reimbursement for beneficial travel mileage for previous VA medical appointments because of your newly granted service-connected conditions. You must make a request for such reimbursement **within 30 days of this letter** by contacting the Enrollment office at your Medical Center and providing a copy of this letter.

State Benefits:

- **State Benefits:** For more information, please visit www.va.gov/statedva.htm.

Where to Send Your Correspondence

Documents may be submitted by mail, in person at a VA regional office or electronically. However, VA recommends submitting correspondence electronically as this is the fastest method of receipt.

VA provides several tools to assist in electronic submission. To learn more about how to submit documents and claims electronically, visit www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence. You can also go directly to access.va.gov to digitally upload any correspondence using QuickSubmit.

By visiting www.va.gov you can also check your claim status and learn about other VA benefits.

If you need assistance, you can find a local, accredited representative at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/>

If you prefer to mail your correspondence, please use the related mailing address below:

<p>Compensation Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 531-7818</p>	<p>Pension & Survivors Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Intake Center P.O. Box 5365 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 655-1604</p>
<p>Board of Veterans' Appeals Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals P.O. Box 27063 Washington, DC 20038 Toll Free Fax: (844) 678-8979</p>	<p>Fiduciary Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Intake Center P.O. Box 5211 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (888) 581-6826</p>

These addresses serve **all United States and foreign locations.**






You can also send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. For more information, visit www.veteranscrisisline.net



YOUR RIGHT TO SEEK REVIEW OF OUR DECISION

This document outlines your right to seek review of our decision on any issue with which you disagree. You may generally select one of three different review options for each issue decided by VA. However, you may not request review of the same issue using more than one option at the same time. Below is information on the three different review options.

	Supplemental Claim	Higher-Level Review	Board Appeal
What Is This?	A reviewer will determine whether new and relevant evidence changes the prior decision.	An experienced claims adjudicator will review your decision using the same evidence VA considered in the prior decision.	A Veterans Law Judge at the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) will review your decision.
By Selecting This Option	<p>You are adding or identifying new and relevant evidence to support your claim that we did not previously consider.</p> <p>VA will assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence that you identify to support your claim.</p>	<p>You have no additional evidence to submit to support your claim, but you believe there was an error in the prior decision.</p> <p>You can request an optional, one-time, informal conference with a Higher-Level Reviewer to identify specific errors in the case, although requesting this conference may delay the review.</p>	<p>You must choose a docket:</p> <p>Direct Review - You do not want to submit evidence or have a hearing.</p> <p>Evidence Submission - You choose to submit additional evidence without a hearing.</p> <p>Hearing - You choose to have a hearing with a Veterans Law Judge.</p>
Goal To Complete	125 days on average	125 days on average	365 days on average for Direct Review (longer for the other options)
Form To File*	VA Form 20-0995, <i>Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim</i>	VA Form 20-0996, <i>Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review</i>	VA Form 10182, <i>Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)</i>
Scan QR Code to Access Form			
Further Options After This Decision Review	You may request another Supplemental Claim, a Higher-Level Review, or a Board Appeal.	You may request a Supplemental Claim or a Board Appeal.	You may request a Supplemental Claim or appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.



For most VA benefits, you have **1 year** from the date on your decision notice to request a decision review to ensure the earliest possible effective date. Consult your decision notice for specific limitations.

* All forms listed are available at www.va.gov/find-forms/ or use your mobile device camera to scan the QR code to take you directly to the form you select.

If you do not submit a decision review request within the required time, you may only seek review through the following:

- A request to revise the decision based on a clear and unmistakable error, or
- A Supplemental Claim. If you file a Supplemental Claim after the **1-year** time limit, the effective date for any resulting award of benefits generally will be tied to the date VA receives the Supplemental Claim.

While most decision review options are available to you, there are limitations based on the type of decision you received.

- If you are a party to a **contested claim** - such as claims for apportionment, attorney fee disagreement, or multiple parties filing for survivor's benefits - your *only* option for disagreeing with your decision is to file a Board Appeal within **60 days** of the date on your decision notice.
- If you are seeking review of an **insurance decision** you have an *additional* option to challenge VA's decision by filing a complaint with a United States district court in the jurisdiction in which you reside within 6 years from when the right of action first accrues. Consult your decision notice for details on what options are available and where to send the request.

Get Help with Your Review Request:

For more information on all the available review options, contact us at 1-800-827-1000 or visit www.va.gov/decision-reviews/. If you need help filing a decision review, you may want to work with an accredited attorney, claims agent, or a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representative. Additional information about working with an accredited attorney, claims agent, or VSO representative is available at www.va.gov/decision-reviews/get-help-with-review-request/. You can find a searchable database of VA-recognized representatives at www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation.

Scan the QR Code to Open the Appropriate Decision Review Website Page



**Supplemental
Claim**



**Higher-Level
Review**



**Board
Appeal**