

Veterans Angels Inc.

"Our tribute to those who have gone before, and our service to those who carry on"

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501(c)(3)
Tax-Exempt
Public Charity in Nevada

EIN Number
27-0204290

Veterans Angels, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt public charity and our service is provided free of charge. This life changing information is provided to thousands of families throughout the United States. We have no funding other than tax-deductible donations.

If you feel our service is of value, please consider making a tax-deductible donation by check, or with a credit card at our secure donation website, www.vetangels.org. Thank you!

Our mission is to provide the information to assist you in preparing your VA claim administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our Accredited Claims Agent will be available to assist with the preparation of your claim.

The attached forms need to be completed and submitted with the required supporting documents. The location to mail your claim is in this packet.

Want your claim processed faster? The forms included are to help you submit a Fully Developed Claim (FDC). This is the fastest way to have your claim processed and there is no risk to participate, but you must READ THE INSTRUCTIONS AND SUBMIT YOUR CLAIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "FDC" Criteria.

The Fully Developed Claim means that every piece of information and evidence that the VA needs to make a determination is provided at ONE TIME.

If you submit additional information or evidence after you submit your Fully Developed Claim, the VA will move your claim into the Standard Claim process. This can mean a difference of months in processing time. So, let's get it right the first time.

If you have questions, you may contact Veterans Angels, Inc. via email at support@vetangels.org or call, toll-free, at 1-888-319-1117.

It is our honor to assist you.

Respectfully,
Veterans Angels, Inc.

MAIL ONLY

TIPS FOR "STAYING SANE" WHILE PREPARING A VA CLAIM!

This is not "brain surgery", but it is tedious! You know how to eat an elephant?
ONE BITE AT A TIME!

1. If there are any questions as to the claimant's assets being a factor, please contact us before mailing the claim to the VA. The VA looks at all assets, other than home, car, and personal possessions. **Do Not assume the assets will disqualify you for the benefit.** Contact us toll-free at 1-888-319-1117.

2. After printing the 5 steps from the link emailed to you, paper clip all the forms that go together. VA form numbers are in the bottom left corner. Ex: 21-2680 (2 pages), 21-22a (2 pages) etc. Use the Checklist for VA forms for further instructions for each VA form.

3. Use the Checklist for Supporting Documents. This will be the most time consuming, but most of the information needed to complete the VA forms come from these documents.

4. Immediately order a Certified Copy of the Veteran's Military Separation Papers or DD214. You may request online at: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/ OR use the Form 180 in the packet and mail to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis (address in packet). It normally does not cost anything, but it does take time to receive. You will receive two Certified Copies with a raised seal. Keep one in your file and send one to the VA when you submit your claim. You may send the Original and the VA has been good about returning, but it may take awhile.

5. Read the instructions! On all forms, you may use an address that will insure any correspondence from the VA will be received and responded to in a timely manner.

6. Who is the Claimant? The Veteran or the un-remarried Surviving Spouse is always the Claimant. Another person may help with completing the VA forms, but they are NOT the Claimant. Neither is a Power of Attorney (POA). The VA does not accept the signature of a POA, so the Claimant must sign all forms. If the Claimant cannot sign their name, on the Application for Pension (21-p-527EZ or 21p-534EZ), the Claimant can sign with an "x" with two witnesses. All other forms may be signed with an "x".

7. The VA tracks claims with the Veteran's Social Security Number and VA file numbers. There is no VA file assigned until the VA receives the claim or Intent to File.

8. Un-reimbursed Medical Expenses (UME) need to be listed both on the 21p-527EZ or 21p-534EZ and the 21p-8416 (Medical Expense Report). Please read "How to Complete the Medical Expense Report" from our packet. Remember, to determine the amount of the benefit, the VA looks at the Gross Family Income MINUS the UME. To receive the maximum benefit the Gross Family Income has to offset to zero with UME. Ex: Gross Income is \$2,000/mo. MINUS \$2,000 in UME is ZERO income for VA purposes.

FINAL CHECKLIST FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE

You may use this checklist to verify that all forms and documents are included.

1. 21p-534EZ - *Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits* - **Surviving Spouse must sign.** POA signature is not accepted by DVA. An "x" with two witnesses on the signature page is acceptable. All other forms may then be signed with an "x".
2. 21-0845 - *Authorization to Disclose Personal Information to a Third Party* - **Surviving Spouse must sign.** This form will allow the VA to speak with ONE third party person. One name and address goes on Item # 13, usually a family member or friend.
3. 21-22a - *Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative* - **Surviving Spouse must sign.** This appoints Linda R. Stone as the authorized claims agent for the claim. This allows copies of VA correspondence to be sent to Ms. Stone and to speak with the VA on behalf of the claimant.
4. 21-4138 - *Statement in Support of Claim* - **Surviving Spouse must sign.** This is writing a letter explaining what the claimant is applying for and why. Example: "I am the un-remarried surviving spouse of a combat qualified veteran. I am applying for the Surviving Spouse Death Pension with Aid and Attendance. I cannot live on my own and reside in assisted living. I need assistance with bathing, ambulation, and other activities of daily living", etc.
5. 21p-8416 - *Medical Expense Report* - **Surviving Spouse must sign.** This is a "snapshot" of one month's health and medical expenses (if this is a New claim). **THE VA WILL ONLY COUNT EXPENSES FROM THE DATE THE 21-0966 or the CLAIM IS RECEIVED, and GOING FORWARD.** Prior expenses will not be counted.
6. 21-4142 and 21-4142a - *Authorization to Release Information and General Release for Medical Provider Information* - **Please Note: You should NOT complete or submit these forms UNLESS your primary doctors are through the VA.** The VA will request your VA medical records internally if you provide these authorization forms. **Surviving Spouse must sign.**
7. 21-2680 - *Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance* - This form must be completed and signed by an MD or DO. The VA will not accept signatures of an RN or PA. Get 3-6 months of medical records.
8. 21-0779 - *Request for Nursing Home Information* - **Only use this form if the care facility is providing skilled or intermediate nursing services.** **Nursing Home Official must sign.**
9. *Care Expense Statement* - **Surviving Spouse must sign, as well as an Official from the Care Facility OR the In-home Care provider.** Family members, other than the spouse, may provide care, but must be paid as caregivers.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST
For SURVIVING SPOUSE CLAIM

1. Original or Certified Copy of Veteran's Military Separation Papers (DD214). The DVA will return originals, however, we strongly recommend requesting a Certified Copy online at www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records, Or by mailing the Standard Form 180 provided in this packet. The Archives will provide 2 copies. One will be for your file and the other will be sent with your claim to the DVA. There is no charge for the Certified Copies, but it does take time to receive.

2. Copy of the Veterans Death Certificate

3. Copy of Marriage Certificate to the Veteran

4. Previous Marriage(s) Information - If you have a copy of any previous marriage certificates, death certificates, divorce decrees for BOTH THE DECEASED VETERAN AND THE SURVIVING SPOUSE (the Claimant), you should include with your claim.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS, you must furnish on the 21p-534ez, at least the Month, Year, and Place of the marriage, of the death or divorce for BOTH THE VETERAN AND THE SURVIVING SPOUSE (Claimant).

5. Medical Records. Copy of the most recent medical records from the physician most familiar with the claimant's medical history. You don't need to send a book, usually 3-6 months of the most current records.

6. Voided check on the account where the benefit will be Direct Deposited. Attach check at the bottom of the Direct Deposit Page, the last page of the 21p-534ez. A Deposit slip will not be accepted. This is to insure the VA can input correctly.

7. Copy of sources of income (Social Security Statement, Pension(s), and all other income from all sources.

8. Copy of most recent Bank Statement(s), Brokerage accounts, etc.

9. Copy of current Statement(s) for any Assets reported on VA form 21p-534ez, Page 9, Section VII.