

**VETERAN'S COMPENSATION CLAIM CHECKLIST**

**Appointment Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **DD214 or Military Separation Papers**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Marriage Certificate (if applicable)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prior Marriage Information (if applicable) – Divorce Decrees or Prior Spouse Death Certificate**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Birth Certificate/Social Security Card - Dependent Child**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Voided Check (for direct deposit)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Current Medical Records with Diagnosis for claims**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Military Service Medical Treatment Records (if available)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Disability Benefits Questionnaire (if applicable)**

**Information needed on spouse (if applicable):**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** If not enrolled in VA health care, need previous year's gross household income, asset information, interest for previous year, and out-of-pocket medical expenses for previous year to apply.

## **DISABILITY SERVICE CONNECTION:**

To support a claim for **service connection**, the evidence must show:

- You had an injury in service, or a disease that began in or was made permanently worse during service, or there was an event in service that caused an injury or disease, **AND**
- You have a current physical or mental disability. This may be shown by medical evidence or by lay evidence of persistent and recurrent symptoms of disability that are visible or observable; **AND**
- A relationship exists between your current disability and an injury, disease, symptoms, or event in service. This may be shown by medical records or medical opinions or, in certain cases, by lay evidence. However, under certain circumstances, VA may presume that certain current disabilities were caused by service, even if there is no specific evidence proving this in your particular claim. The cause of a disability is presumed for the following veterans who have certain diseases:
  1. Former prisoners of war;
  2. Veterans who have certain chronic or tropical diseases that become evident within a specific period of time after discharge from service;
  3. Veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation, mustard gas, **or** Lewisite while in service;
  4. Veterans who were exposed to certain herbicides, such as by serving in Vietnam; **OR,**
  5. Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia Theater of operations during the Gulf War.

To support a claim for **service connection based upon a period of active duty training**, the evidence must show:

- You were disabled during active duty for training due to disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; **AND**
- You have a current physical or mental disability. This may be shown by medical evidence or by lay evidence of persistent and recurrent symptoms of disability that are visible or observable; **AND**
- There is a relationship between your current disability and the disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active duty for training. This may be shown by medical records or medical opinions or, in certain cases, by lay evidence.

To support a claim for **service connection based upon a period of inactive duty training**, the evidence must show:

- You were disabled during inactive duty training due to an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or an acute myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, or cerebrovascular accident during inactive duty training; **AND**
- You have a current physical or mental disability. This may be shown by medical evidence or by lay evidence of persistent and recurrent symptoms of disability that are visible or observable; **AND**
- There is a relationship between your current disability and your inactive duty training. This may be shown by medical records or medical opinions or, in certain cases, by lay evidence.