

VA Disability Compensation

VA Compensation is a benefit paid to discharged service members for chronic disabilities that occurred during the veteran's military service. There are five ways to establish service connection:

Direct Service Connection - There is a direct link between the current disability and something that occurred during the period of military service. Example: A veteran suffers chronic injuries to his/her right leg, lower back and right knee during their military service. The right leg, lower back and right knee can be rated service connected.

Aggravation - The current disability preexisted military service but became worse during service or was aggravated beyond the normal means of progression. Example: The veteran was diagnosed with asthma at an early age. The veteran was not suffering from this condition and had not had any asthma attacks since childhood. During the veterans military service he/she was exposed to conditions which aggravated the asthma and the condition became chronic.

Presumptive Service Connection – The current disability is a condition that did not manifest itself during service but is presumed to have started or connected to something that happened during service by virtue of a statute or VA regulation.

Radiation
Undiagnosed Illness (Gulf War Syndrome)
Agent Orange Exposure
POW Claims

Presumptive Service Connection information in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)

Secondary Service Connection - The current disability is the result of a service connected disability. Example: The veteran is receiving VA disability compensation as the result of a right knee injury. As a result the veteran alters his gait and over the years his left knee and left hip become injured. The left knee and left hip may be service connected secondary to the right knee injury.

Injury Caused by VA Health Care – The current condition is the result of an injury that is caused by VA health care, VA training and rehabilitation service, or by participation in a VA compensated work therapy program.

[VA Disability Compensation Fact Sheet](#)

If you are a Clinton or Ingham County veteran and would like free assistance applying for disability compensation or would like further information on any veteran benefit please call (517) 887-4331.