

15 Most Common Reasons the VA Denies Compensation Claims

1. Not Enough Medical Evidence

The VA needs proof that your condition is real and serious. If your records don't clearly show this, they might deny your claim.

2. No Clear Connection to Military Service

You must show that your injury or illness happened because of your military service. If there's no clear link, the VA may deny your claim.

3. Missed Deadlines

Filing late or not responding to the VA on time can cause your claim to be denied. Keeping up with deadlines is important.

4. Wrong Forms or Missing Paperwork

If you don't fill out the right forms or forget to include important documents, the VA might deny your claim.

5. Lack of a Medical Diagnosis

If you say you have a condition, but a doctor has not officially diagnosed you, the VA will not approve your claim.

6. The VA Says the Condition is Not "Severe Enough"

The VA may agree that you have a condition but say it's not bad enough to qualify for compensation.

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7. Lack of Documented Complaints During Service

The VA may deny your claim if there is no record of you reporting or seeking treatment for your condition during your military service. To receive benefits, you must provide evidence that your condition either began or worsened while you were in service, even if you didn't report it at the time.

8. No Proof of Continued Treatment

If you don't have medical records showing that you're still being treated for the condition, the VA may believe it's not serious.

9. The VA Says There's No Disability at All

Even if you feel the effects of an injury or illness, if the VA doesn't see enough proof, they may say you don't have a disability.

10. Failure to Attend a VA Exam

The VA may require a medical exam (C&P exam). If you miss it, your claim may be denied.

11. Condition Not in VA's List of Recognized Disabilities

Some conditions are harder to get approved if they are not officially linked to military service. However, this does not mean approval is impossible.

12. Discharge Status Issues

The VA may deny compensation claims if a veteran has an other than honorable (OTH) discharge. However, this does not automatically disqualify you from benefits. The VA reviews each case individually and may still grant benefits if your service is determined to be "honorable for VA purposes.

13. The VA Says the Condition is Temporary

If the VA thinks your condition will get better soon, they may not approve your claim or may give a very low rating.

14. Secondary Condition Not Recognized

If your disability led to another condition (like PTSD causing heart problems), you need medical proof to connect them.

15. Lack of Strong Evidence from Buddy Statements or Experts

Sometimes, statements from friends, family, fellow service members, or medical nexus expert can help support your claim. Without them, the VA may deny it.

Don't Give Up - There's Hope

A denial is not the final answer. Many veterans win their cases on appeal. If your claim was denied, it doesn't mean you don't deserve benefits. It often just means more evidence or a better explanation is needed. An experienced VA attorney can help you fight back and get the benefits you earned. Reach out and get the help you need.