

Service-Connected and Non-service-Connected Benefits for Veterans

For those that serve their country, the Department of Veteran Affairs provides a wide range of disability benefits. But not all VA benefits are created equal-- the benefits you receive for your disability claim will vary from person to person. The Department of Veteran Affairs has 8 "priority groups" which they use to decide which types of benefits a veteran will receive; "1" is the highest and "8" (which as of 2003 is no longer assigned to new veterans) is the lowest. The level of priority you are given will depend entirely on your disability (and whether it is service- or non-service-connected), your situation financially, and the level or intensity of your disability.

Since whether or not a disability is service-connected or non-service-connected can have a great effect on the benefits you will receive, its important to have a good understanding of the specific requirements for each of these two types of benefits.

The Requirements for Non-service-Connected Benefits

A veteran who suffers from a total and permanent disability qualifies for non-Service-connected benefits. Qualifying for non-service-connected benefits can also be dependant on a few other issues:

â€¢ Income- Being eligible for non-service-connected benefits is based on the recipient having limited earnings and a net worth too low to provide the veteran with adequate maintenance. For more information please see 38 U.S.C.S. Â§Â§1521-22.

â€¢ Service - To be eligible for non-service-connected pensions, you must have 90 days of active duty and at least one day in a "period of war." For those enrolled in the military after 1980, however, the requirement is simply a full period of active duty. Specifically, an individual who enlisted for the first time on or after September 8, 1980, is required to complete a minimum period of service, either twenty-four months of continuous active duty or the full period for which the veteran was called to active duty. Additionally, the veteran must have active service that includes a total of ninety days during one or more periods of war; ninety or more consecutive days, one day of which is during a period of war; or at least one day of wartime service that results in a discharge for service-connected disability.

â€¢ Discharge- To qualify for VA benefits, you must have been discharged from military duty under non-dishonorable circumstances.

The Requirements for Service Connected Benefits

Unlike with non-service-connected benefits, veterans who receive service-connected benefits do not need to be fully disabled, have served during wartime, or meet an income or net worth requirement. Rather, you will be required to prove the source and current condition of your disability using:

â€¢ Proof of your current disability- As service-connected disability benefits are only available to those with current disabilities, the first things applicants must do is provide a current diagnosis of their disability using up-to-date medical records.

â€¢ Substantiation of the disability or injurys occurrence Veterans applying for service-connected benefits must next provide evidence that their current disability was either incurred during or worsened by military service. Its important to know, however, that "in-service" is a broad term, and can include injury incurred even during leave.

â€¢ Support of the connection between the current disability and the service-connected injury- Veterans applying for service-connected disability benefits must prove that their current disability is indeed connected to the injury which occurred during military service. Related articles [Tampa social security lawyers](#) . [Social security benefits](#) . [Social security disability](#) . [Florida social security lawyers](#) .

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