> “When Veterans and survivors provide all required evidence at the same time they submit a claim AND certify that they have no more evidence, VA can issue a decision faster.”

Why an FDC?

Filing a Fully Developed Claim allows Veterans and survivors the option to participate more fully in the claims process. When Veterans and survivors provide all required evidence at the same time they submit a claim AND certify that they have no more evidence, **VA can issue a decision faster.**

The FDC program is an optional new program that **offers Veterans and survivors faster decisions from VA on their compensation, pension and survivor benefit claims.**

Veterans can file an FDC without affecting the attention their claim receives from qualified VA rating staff or the benefits to which they are entitled. If VA determines other records exist and are required to decide a claim, VA will simply remove the claim from the FDC program and process it through the traditional claims process.

How to find a VSO

Veterans may appoint a Veterans Service Officer for assistance with their claims. To find an accredited Veterans Service Officer near you, log into eBenefits **(www.ebenefits.va.gov)** and select **Apply for Benefits.** Under **Apply for Disability Compensation,** select **Request for Representation.** Accept the terms and conditions. Enter your VA file number and the type of representation you want. Select a representative from the list. Make sure to copy down the phone number. Your chosen representative will be notified of your selection.

eBenefits
My Gateway to Benefit Information

For more information, visit
www.benefits.va.gov/FDC
or call **1-800-827-1000**

Compensation

Filing an Electronic Fully Developed Claim

File your claim as a Fully Developed Claim:

It’s the fastest way to get your VA compensation, pension or survivor benefits claims processed.

fdc

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA PAM 20A4-13-1
June 2013

> You have a year from the start date to gather evidence and submit the claim.

Veterans may now file an electronic FDC for:

- **Compensation for a military-related disability**
  - An injury, disability, or condition you believe to have occurred or been aggravated by your service
  - A condition caused or aggravated by an existing service-related condition

Contact your appointed Veterans Service Officer for help filing an FDC, or visit **www.eBenefits.va.gov** to start filing today. You may also call **1-800-827-1000** for assistance.

www.benefits.va.gov/FDC

HOW TO FILE AN ELECTRONIC FULLY DEVELOPED CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ONLINE

1

- ☑ **Log into eBenefits at www.eBenefits.va.gov**
- ☑ **Click *Apply for Benefits***
- ☑ **Click *Apply for Disability Compensation***
- ☑ **Start by answering the questions about your claim**
  - ☐ Hit *SAVE and Continue* to preserve the day from which VA may be able to pay you should it grant your claim
  - ☐ You have a year from the start date to gather evidence and submit the claim
    - i. VA will not process your claim until you hit *Submit*

2

- ☑ **Identify federal records. Tell us:**
  - ☐ Where and when you were treated at a VA medical facility
  - ☐ If you receive Social Security benefits for a service-related condition
  - ☐ Where your service treatment records and/or DOD personnel records are located (if you have copies, submit them)

3

- ☑ **Gather records (as applicable):**
  - ☐ Relevant private medical treatment records
  - ☐ If National Guard or Reserve, all relevant treatment and personnel records in the custody of your unit(s)
  - ☐ Statements from you or friends and family supporting your claim (if you don't believe the incident is recorded in your military records)
- ☑ **Upload the documents you gathered**
  - ☐ Scan the documents
  - ☐ Under the *Upload Documents* tab, select *Manage Files*
  - ☐ Upload your documents

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- ☑ Your appointed **Veterans Service Officer (VSO)**, if you have one, can check your claim and make sure you have all the required documents
- ☑ Once all records are uploaded (and your VSO has reviewed the claim), verify that you have *No More Evidence* and click *Submit*.