



Thank you for choosing the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) as your accredited representative.

Congressionally chartered in 1945, BVA has been providing claims assistance to visually impaired veterans for over 80 years through the Veterans Service Program (VSP).

Please read below for some guidelines to our policy for representation.

We will:

- Provide an explanation of applicable VA law regarding your claim, including what evidence will be required for a successful outcome.
- Conduct a thorough review of pertinent medical and other evidence.
- Submit claims and evidence in a timely manner.
- Attempt successful claims in the first instance to avoid lengthy appeals.
- Provide guidance on Decision Review should the decision turn out to be unfavorable.
- Provide representation at the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) in the event of a formal appeal.

We ask you to:

- Consult with a BVA National Service Officer (NSO) before submitting any claim, appeal, or hearing request to the Board or Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).
- Submit all claims, evidence, forms, or other correspondence through a BVA NSO.
- Be truthful with us and keep us updated with your personal contact information.
- Appear for any scheduled VA examinations or let us know if you cannot attend right away.
- Contact a BVA NSO promptly if VA asks for any information about your claim.
- Contact a BVA NSO if you receive adverse correspondence from VA and wish to pursue the matter further.

Although VA's notification letters might say we were cc'd, we do not get paper or email notification that a decision was made. If you receive an adverse decision, you will have up to one year to respond before the decision becomes final. Ultimately, the responsibility for meeting this deadline falls on the claimant.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in revocation of representation by BVA.

We focus primarily on VA disability compensation and pension benefits, claims and appeals. Our ability to provide assistance with VHA claims at the local level is very limited. The VSP will not get involved in PCAFC (Caregiver) claims except for appeals to the Board.

Further, BVA provides representation with emphasis on blinded veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Claimants without vision loss will be referred to other service organizations.