



What You Need to Know

Who this is for

- Veterans who are applying for or maintaining benefits
- Family members, dependents, caregivers helping a Veteran
- Survivors of Veterans
- Spouses, parents, children, caregivers
- *Note: If you're a caregiver or dependent, you may have unique forms

Important documents & ID you'll want to gather

Before you fill out any form, have these ready:

- Veteran's Social Security Number & VA-file number
- Discharge documents (e.g., DD 214 or other separation papers)
- Proof of marriage, divorce, birth certificates or adoption records for dependents
- Medical records relevant to the Veteran's service-connected injury or disability
- Bank routing & account number (for direct deposit)
- Recent address & contact information for veteran, spouse, dependents
- Legal documents if someone else is signing for the Veteran (power of attorney, guardianship)

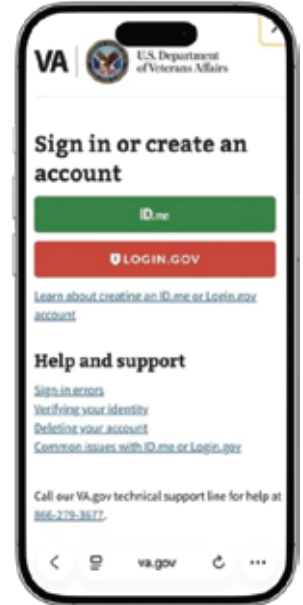
How to submit your forms

- Often you can apply online (visit the VA website for the specific benefit). This is usually the best option
- Or you can download the PDF, fill it out and mail it to the address on the form. PO Box 5154, Janesville WI 53547-5154
- In some cases you can visit a VA medical center or regional office in person and hand it in
- Keep copies of everything you submit for your records

Get Connected for Benefits

Create an account

- Go to [VA.gov/sign-in](https://va.gov/sign-in).
- Select "Create an account" and follow the prompts to register with Login.gov or ID.me
- You will need to provide your email address, create a strong password (at least 12 characters), and verify your email address.



Verify your identity

- Once your account is created, you'll need to verify your identity to gain full access to benefits.
- The verification process is a one-time event and may require you to provide information and documents such as your Social Security number, a valid government-issued ID (like a driver's license), and possibly your military discharge papers (DD214).
- You may also need to set up multi-factor authentication for added security, such as using an authentication app or a text message.

Access benefits and services

- After you have a verified account, you can log in to VA.gov to apply for benefits.
- For example, to apply for VA health care, you will need to complete the online VA Form 10-10EZ, which requires information like your Social Security number, military service history, and insurance details.