

THE VA DISABILITY BENEFITS JOURNEY

4 Pathways Veterans Take

In pursuit of benefits that match your disability? These are the most common paths Veterans take.

1 Self Representation (“DIY”)

You get the chance to tell your medical story. You file the claim. In this path, you must provide medical evidence in support of your claim. As in other paths, it’s your right to include private medical evidence*



What to Know Ahead:

- You can work with qualified physicians to get medical evidence that tells your complete story.
- The physicians you choose to work with do not have to be employed by the VA.
- You will be exposed to topics that may require knowledge

of federal law and medical research.

*You may hire pro services with experience in disability benefits to develop a private medical evidence in support of your claim.

2 Nonprofit Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

As VA-accredited representatives, VSOs (e.g., American Legion, VFW, Wounded Warrior Project) can access your VA records and file a claim for you.



What to Know Ahead:

- VSOs may not have the expertise it takes to tell the most complete and accurate medical story.
- VSOs have access to the Veteran Benefits Management System (VBMS), the VA’s claims processing database.
- You can bring private medical evidence to a claim that is managed by a VSO.
- You give VSOs “power of attorney” to process and manage claims on your behalf.

3 VA-Accredited Attorney

These VA-accredited lawyers can also access key VA systems and file claims for you. If a claim has been denied, they can represent you in the appeals process.



What to Know Ahead:

- Can only charge fees after a claim is denied. This leads many lawyers to focus their efforts on appeals.
- To avoid delays and inaccuracies in your claims, you may insist that your VA-accredited attorney uses the private medical evidence

you’ve provided.

- Focusing on appeals leads to lengthier service periods and large fees to match.
- Claim denied? You may still owe, even before the appeals process begins.

4 Unaccredited, Non-Medical Claims Service

Known as “claims sharks,” these companies attempt to “prepare, present and prosecute” VA claims outside of the established accreditation rules.



What to Know Ahead:

- They’ve been known to charge hidden fees or illegally guarantee increased VA ratings.
- Medical and legal expertise may be limited. They often lack the experience and medical expertise required to submit fully developed claims.



HELPFUL COMPANIONS:



Medical Evidence Development Companies



Companies like **TRAJECTOR MEDICAL** develop medical evidence which veterans can use throughout their benefits journey.

Whichever path Veterans choose in their VA claim, they have a right to use private medical evidence developed by a medically focused company.



What to Bring on Your Journey:

- Medical evidence to capture your complete medical picture.
- Tools to identify and explain your disability symptoms.
- Resources to avoid common errors that result in underrated or denied claims.

TRAJECTOR
MEDICAL

Medical Evidence For Your Disability Benefits Journey

For more information:

1-888-988-3837

TrajectorMedical.com

* Trajector Medical reviews veteran military service and health records strictly for medical insight purposes and will only do so following the veteran’s express written consent. Trajector is in no way associated with or accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and does not file VA disability claims nor does it represent veterans before the VA.