

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

For soldiers who have done their duty for their country, the Department of Veteran Affairs offers several types of disability benefits. But each veteran receives different types of benefits-- and not all of these benefits are equally valuable. The VA uses eight "priority groups" to determine which benefits you will receive, with "1" being the highest priority and "8" the lowest (as of 2003, no new veterans are enrolled into group 8). 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.

Non-service-Connected Benefits Requirements

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." However, for a veteran who entered military service after 1980, the service requirement is simply to have completed a full period of active duty. Specifically, a veteran who was enrolled for the first time after (or on) Sept. 8, 1980 will need to have completed a minimum service period, which should amount to either twenty-four continuous months of active duty or the entire period that individual was called for 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 be eligible for benefits from the Department of Veteran Affairs, your discharge from the military needs to have been under non-dishonorable circumstances.

Service-Connected Benefits Requirements

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€¢ Evidence of current disability- Because benefits for a service-connected disability are awarded only to those with a current disability, an applicant for these benefits must provide recent medical records diagnosing the current state of their disability.

â€¢ Substantiation of the disability or injurys occurrence The next thing applicants for service-connected benefits must provide is proof that the disability occurred during or was aggravated by military service. Veterans should keep in mind, though, that the VA uses the term "in-service" broadly, also including injuries that occurred during leave.

â€¢ Support of the connection between the current disability and the service-connected injury- This requires that applicants give evidence of a connection between the injury incurred in service and the current disability. Related Articles [Social security attorney](#) -- [Social security attorney florida](#) -- [Social security lawyer](#) --

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