






Appeals Modernization

Any Veteran who receives an initial VA claim decision after February 2019 will follow the new Appeals Modernization process if they disagree with the decision. There are three new ways to handle a disagreement. Choose from three lanes:

-  Higher-Level Review
-  Supplemental Claim
-  Appeal to the Board

All three lanes provide eligible Veterans with faster resolution of disagreements with VA decisions.

How do I get started with my appeal?

To view or print the applicable form for Appeals Modernization decision review lanes, go to www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp and follow the instructions for submission.

Veterans in the legacy appeals process who receive a Statement of the Case (SOC) or Supplemental Statement of the Case (SSOC) after February 2019 can opt-in to the new Appeals Modernization process.




VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



For More Information

-  For more information about VA's implementation of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, go to: www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp.
-  Questions? Call 1-800-827-1000 or reach out to your local VA regional office. If you have a VA accredited representative, contact them for more information on Appeals Modernization.
-  Go to www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status/ to check the status of your appeal using the Appeals Status Tool.

VA Appeals Modernization




The new VA Appeals Modernization process provides a quicker review of your disagreement with any VA claim decision.








Choosing a Review Lane in Appeals Modernization





HIGHER-LEVEL REVIEW LANE

-  Your claim will be reviewed by a more experienced adjudicator.
-  You cannot submit any additional evidence for your claim in this lane; your claim will be reviewed with all the information that was considered in the previous decision.
-  You or your representative may also request to have an informal telephone conference with the higher-level reviewer about your claim, although that may delay how fast a decision can be made.

SUPPLEMENTAL CLAIM LANE

-  You must submit additional evidence to support your claim before it's reviewed again. This route is helpful if you know there was information missing from your original claim or if you have new and relevant evidence to submit.
-  VA will assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence to support your claim.
-  Once you submit or inform VA of new and relevant evidence, a claims adjudicator will review your claim.

APPEAL TO THE BOARD LANE

-  If you choose the Board, select from one of the three options:
 -  **Direct Review**
You do not want to submit additional evidence or have a hearing. The average response from the Board is 365 days.
 -  **Evidence Submission**
You choose to submit additional evidence without a hearing. You will have 90 days from your Notice of Disagreement (NOD) to submit any additional evidence. This will take longer than one year.
 -  **Hearing**
You choose to submit additional evidence and want to testify before a Veterans Law Judge. You will be scheduled for a Board hearing and may submit evidence at the hearing or within the 90-day window following the scheduled hearing. This will take longer than one year.

Choose This Lane If...

	Higher-Level Review Lane	Supplemental Claim Lane	Appeal to the Board Lane
YOU WANT...	...an entirely new review of your claim by a more experienced adjudicator.	...to include any new and relevant evidence before your claim is reviewed.	...to appeal directly to the Board with an NOD.
YOU HAVE...	...no additional evidence to submit in support of your claim, but you believe there was an error in the initial decision.	...additional evidence that is new and relevant since your claim was last decided to support your claim.	...either no additional evidence, additional evidence, or want to testify.
YOU UNDERSTAND VA...	...cannot assist you in developing additional evidence for your claim in this lane.	...can assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence to support your claim in this lane.	...cannot assist you in developing additional evidence for your appeal in this lane.
YOU KNOW...	...you may want to request an optional, one-time, informal telephone conference with the higher-level reviewer to identify specific errors in your case.	...what information was missing from your original claim or have new evidence to share that will better support your claim.	...that you want the Board to review your appeal with no additional evidence, additional evidence or with a hearing.