

# GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR INCOME-NET WORTH AND EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT

NOTE: Read these instructions very carefully, detach, and keep for your reference.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### How can I contact VA if I have a question?

If you have questions about this form, how to complete it, or about benefits, contact your nearest VA regional office. You can locate the address of the nearest VA regional office on the Internet at <a href="https://www.va.gov/directory">www.va.gov/directory</a>, in your telephone book blue pages under "United States Government, Veterans." For information you may also call 1-877-294-6380 (Hearing Impaired TDD line 1-800-829-4833). You may also contact VA by the Internet at: <a href="https://iris.va.gov">https://iris.va.gov</a>.

#### For what do I use VA Form 21-527?

Use VA Form 21-527 to apply for disability pension if you *have* previously filed a claim for compensation and/or pension.

If you *have not* filed a claim for compensation or pension previously, you *must* use VA Form 21-526, Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension. For expeditious processing, use VA Form 21-527EZ, Fully Developed Claim (Pension). All VA forms are available at <a href="https://www.va.gov/vaforms">www.va.gov/vaforms</a>.

## What is disability pension and how does VA decide what I will and will not receive?

You should apply for pension benefits if all of the following are true:

- Your income is limited.
- You are permanently and totally disabled (not necessarily as a result of your military service), or are age 65 and older.
- At least part of your active duty was during a wartime period.

VA pays disability pension based on the amount of income that the veteran and family receive and the number of dependents in the family. VA must include all sources of income that Federal law specifies. You can find out what the current income limitations and rates of benefits are by contacting your nearest VA office.

VA may pay benefits from the date of receipt of your application unless disability prevented you from filing a claim for a period of at least 30 days. If you want this claim considered for retroactive payment, indicate so in Item 36, "Remarks," and identify the specific disability which prevented you from filing.

# What is special monthly pension?

VA may pay a higher rate of disability pension to a veteran who is blind, a patient in a nursing home, otherwise needs regular aid and attendance, or who is permanently confined to his or her home because of a disability. If you wish to apply for this benefit, check "Yes" in Item 22A.

#### What medical evidence should I submit?

If you are age 65 or older or determined to be disabled by the Social Security Administration, you do not have to submit medical evidence with your application unless you are claiming special monthly pension. Otherwise, only provide medical records that are related to the disabilities that prevent you from working.

If you wish to claim special monthly pension and are not in a nursing home, furnish a statement from your doctor showing the extent of your disabilities. If you are in a nursing home, attach a statement, or VA Form 21-0779, Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance, signed by an official of the nursing home showing the date you were admitted to the nursing home, the level of care you receive, and whether Medicaid covers all or part of your nursing home costs.

If you want help getting medical records related to this claim you may complete VA Form 21-4142, Authorization and Consent to Release Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). By signing VA Form 21-4142, you authorize any doctors, hospitals, or caregivers that have treated you to release information about your treatment to VA. You do not need to complete this form for any treatment you received at a VA facility. If you need a copy of this form, you may contact VA as shown in "How can I contact VA if I have a question?", or download the form from the VA website shown above.

## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)**

# What do I do when I have completed my application?

When you have completed this application mail it or take it to a VA regional office. You can locate the mailing address of your nearest VA regional office at <a href="www.va.gov/directory">www.va.gov/directory</a>. Be sure to attach any materials that support and explain your claim. Also, make a photocopy of your application and everything that you submit to VA before you mail it.

## How can I assign someone to act as my representative?

An accredited representative of a veteran's organization or other service organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may represent you without charge. An accredited attorney or agent may also represent you. However under 38 U.S.C. 5904(c), an accredited agent or attorney may only charge you for services performed after the date you file a notice of disagreement.

If you want to use a representative to help you with your application, contact the nearest VA office. Depending on the type of representative you want to designate, we will send you one of the following forms:

- VA Form 21-22, Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative or
- VA Form 21-22A, Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative

You may download these forms from the VA website shown above. If you have already designated a representative, no further action is required on your part.

#### **Net Worth**

VA must generally consider all assets in determining eligibility for non-service connected pension. VA does not allow anyone to transfer assets, including cash or property, in order to qualify for non-service connected pension. In completing this form, you must disclose all assets you have transferred in the last 5 years, along with **any** assets transferred previously for **any** period of time if the value of the asset(s) exceeded a total of \$20,000. You do not reduce net worth for VA purposes as long as you maintain some right, privilege of ownership, benefit, or control of an asset. Report all transferred assets on \_\_\_\_\_ [give section and/or line] and note the conditions of the transfer in **Remarks**, including any remaining right, privilege of ownership, benefit, or control you have over the asset.

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: The form will be used to determine allowance to pension benefits (38 U.S.C. 5101). The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). VA may disclose the information that you provide, including Social Security numbers, outside VA if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies. VA may make a "routine use" disclosure for: civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration. Your obligation to respond is required in order to obtain or retain benefits. Information that you furnish may be utilized in computer matching programs with other Federal or state agencies for the purpose of determining your eligibility to receive VA benefits, as well as to collect any amount owed to the United States by virtue of your participation in any benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Social Security information: You are required to provide the Social Security number requested under 38 U.S.C. 5101(c)(1). VA may disclose Social Security numbers as authorized under the Privacy Act, and, specifically may disclose them for purposes stated above.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** We need this information to determine your eligibility for pension. Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 1 hour to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, unless a valid OMB Control Number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at <a href="https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain">www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain</a>. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.

OMB Approved No. 2900-0002 Respondent Burden: 1 Hour

<b>Depart</b>	ment of Veterans	Affairs	INCOME,	NET	WORTH, AN	D EMPLO	YMENT STA	TEMENT
IMPORTANT - Re the form. Type, prin	ent Burden Informat	rmation and Instructions carefully before completing				,	ITE IN THIS SPACE) ATE STAMP)	
	PART I - VETI	ERAN/CLAIMA	ANT INFORM	IATIC	N			
1. FIRST NAME - MID	DDLE NAME - LAST NAME OF	VETERAN/CLAIMA	NT (Type or Print)	)				
2A. VETERAN/CLAIM	IANT SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	2B. VA	FILE NO.					
3. ADDRESS OF VET	ERAN/CLAIMANT (No., stree	t or rural route, City	v or P.O., State and	d ZIP C	Code)			
	4A. TELEPHONE NU	MBER(S) (Include A	(1rea Code)		4	B. E-MAIL ADI	DRESS (If applicab	ele)
DAYTIME	EVENING		CELL					
			I - MARITAL	INFO	RMATION			
NOTE: If married,	you should provide a copy	y of your marriage	e certificate.					
5. WHAT IS YOUR M.  MARRIED	ARITAL STATUS?  WIDOWED	DIVORCED	NEVER MARR	IED	(If you are divorce (If never married		d skip to Item 14) arriage skip to Pa	rt III)
6A. WHEN WERE YO	DU MARRIED? (Month, day, ye	ear)	6B. WHERE	DID YO	OU GET MARRIED	? (City, State o	or Country)	•
7. SPOUSE'S NAME	(First, middle, last)		8. SPOUSE'S	S BIRTH	HDAY (Month, day	year) 9.	SPOUSE'S SOCIAI	SECURITY NO.
	SE ALSO A VETERAN?		SPOUSE'S VA FILE	E NO. (	If any)	11		TH YOUR SPOUSE? If "Yes," skip to Item '4) (If "No," complete
YES NO	(If "Yes," complete Item 10E					L		tems 12, 13A & 13B)
and ZIP Code)	RESS (Number and street or r	ural route, city or P.	.O., State	SP	YOU DO NOT LIVI POUSE PLEASE PI e., illness, work, et	ROVIDE THE F	REASON CO	W MUCH DO YOU NTRIBUTE MONTHLY SPOUSE'S SUPPORT?
							\$	
NOTE: Furnish the	INFORMATIC e following information at	ON ABOUT THE						al enace nlease
	sheet of paper providing					mages. II ye	d fieed addition	аг эрасе рісазе
14. HOW MANY TIME	ES HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIE	:D?						
15A. DATE OF MARRIAGE (Month, Day, Year)	15B. PLACE OF MARRIAGE (City, State or Country)		FORMER SPOUS Middle, Last)	SE	15D. DATE MARRIAGE END (Month, Day, Yea	ED MARI	5E. PLACE RIAGE ENDED State or Country)	15F. REASON MARRIAGE ENDED (Death, Divorce)
16. HOW MANY TIME	I ES HAS YOUR CURRENT SPO	L OUSE BEEN MARRI	ED?					
17A. DATE OF MARRIAGE (Month, Day, Year)	17B. PLACE OF MARRIAGE (City, State or Country)		F FORMER SPOUS Middle, Last)	SE	17D. DATE MARRIAGE END (Month, Day, Yea	ED MARI	7E. PLACE RIAGE ENDED State or Country)	17F. REASON MARRIAGE ENDED (Death, Divorce)

#### PART III - INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR UNMARRIED DEPENDENT CHILDREN VA recognizes your biological children, adopted children, and stepchildren as dependents. These children must be unmarried and: • under age 18, or • between 18 and 23 and pursuing an approved course of education, or • of any age if they became permanently unable to support themselves before reaching age 18. "Seriously disabled" means that the child became permanently unable to support himself/herself before reaching age 18. Furnish a statement from an attending physician or other medical evidence which shows the nature and extent of the physical or mental impairment. If you need additional space, please attach a separate sheet of paper providing the requested information about each child. Note: You should provide a copy of the public record of birth for each child or a copy of the court record of adoption for each adopted child. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHILDREN WHO LIVE WITH YOU 18. DO YOU HAVE ANY DEPENDENT CHILDREN? YES □ NO (If "No," skip to Part IV) 19E. CHECK EACH APPLICABLE CATEGORY 19C. PLACE 19B. DATE 19D. SOCIAL 18-23 YRS. OF BIRTH 19A. NAME OF CHILD CHILD OF BIRTH SECURITY OLD AND SERIOUSLY (City, State or (First, Middle, Last) BIOLOGICAL ADOPTED STEPCHILD PREVIOUSLY (Mo., Day, Yr.) NUMBER ATTENDING DISABLED Country) MARRIED SCHOOL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHILDREN WHO DO NOT LIVE WITH YOU 20D. MONTHLY AMOUNT 20C. NAME OF PERSON CHILD 20A. NAME OF CHILD 20B. CHILD'S YOU CONTRIBUTE (First, Middle, Last) COMPLETE ADDRESS LIVES WITH (If applicable) TO CHILD'S SUPPORT \$

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PART IV - INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR	DISABILITY AND BACKGROUND
21A. WHAT DISABILITY (IES) PREVENT YOU FROM WORKING?	21B. WHEN DID THE DISABILITY(IES) BEGIN? (Month, Day, Year)
22A. ARE YOU CLAIMING A SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION BECAUSE YOU NEED THE REGULAR ASSISTANCE OF ANOTHER PERSON, HAVE SEVERE VISUAL PROBLEMS, OR ARE HOUSEBOUND?  YES NO	22B. ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU BEEN RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED OR GIVEN OUTPATIENT OR HOME CARE? (THIS PERTAINS ONLY TO HOSPITALIZATION, OUTPATIENT, OR HOMEBASED CARE DUE TO THE DISABILITIES LISTED IN ITEM 21A ABOVE)  YES NO (If "Yes," complete Items 23A & 23B)
23A. DATE(S) OF RECENT HOSPITALIZATION OR CARE	23B. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF FACILITY OR DOCTOR
24A. ARE YOU NOW EMPLOYED?	24B. WHEN DID YOU LAST WORK? (Month, Day, Year)
YES NO (If "No," answer Item 24B)	
24C. WERE YOU SELF-EMPLOYED BEFORE BECOMING TOTALLY DISABLED?	24D. WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU DO?
YES NO (If "Yes," answer Items 24D and 24E)	
24E. ARE YOU STILL SELF-EMPLOYED?	24F. WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO NOW?
YES NO (If "Yes," answer Item 24F)	

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PART IV - INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DISABILITY AND BACKGROUND (Continued)						
NOTE: In the table below, tell us about all of your employment, including self-employment, for one year before you became disabled to the present.						
25A. WHAT WAS THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR EMPLOYER?	25B. WHAT WAS YOUR JOB TITLE?	25C. WHEN DID YOUR WORK BEGIN? (Mo., day, year)	25D. WHEN DID YOUR WORK END? (Mo., day, year)		25F. WHAT WERE YOUR TOTAL ANNUAL EARNINGS?	
					\$	
					\$	
					\$	
					\$	
					\$	
					\$	
26A. CHECK THE HIGHEST YEAR OF EDUCATION	YOU COMPLETED:					
Grade school:						
	☐ 6  ☐ 7  ☐ 8	9 10	<b>□11</b> □12			
		3	□'' □'-			
College:						
1 2 3 4 Over	4					
26B. LIST THE OTHER TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE AND ANY CERTIFICATES THAT YOU HOLD						
PART V - NURSING HOME INFORMATION						
<b>NOTE</b> : To get your claim processed faster, provide a statement by an official of the nursing home that tells us that you are a patient in the nursing home because of a physical or mental disability and tells us the amount you pay out-of-pocket for your care.						
27A. ARE YOU NOW IN A NURSING HOME?		27B. WHAT IS T FACILITY?		PLETE MAILING ADDR	RESS OF THE	
YES NO (If "Yes," answer Item	<i>27B)</i>					
27C. DOES MEDICAID COVER ALL OR PART OF YO	OUR NURSING HOME COSTS	?? 27D. HAVE YOU	J APPLIED FOR MEDIC	CAID?		
YES NO (If "No," answer Item	27D)	☐ YES ☐	□NO			

## PART VI - INFORMATION ABOUT THE NET WORTH OF YOU AND YOUR DEPENDENTS

NOTE: VA must generally consider all assets in determining eligibility for non-service connected pension. VA cannot pay you pension if your net worth is substantial. Net worth is the market value of all interest and rights you have in any kind of property less any mortgages or other claims against the property. However, net worth does not include the house you live in or a reasonable area of land it sits on. Net worth also does not include the value of personal things you use everyday like your vehicle, clothing, and furniture. VA does not allow anyone to transfer cash, property, or any other asset in order to qualify for non-service connected pension. If property is owned jointly by yourself and your spouse, report one-half of the total Value Held jointly for each of you. You must report net worth for yourself and all persons for whom you are claiming benefits. You do not reduce net worth for VA purposes as long as you maintain some right, privilege of ownership, benefit, or control of asset.

For Items 28A through 28F, provide the amounts. If none, write "0" or "None."								
			CHILD(REN)					
SOURCE OF ASSETS	VETERAN	SPOUSE	Name (First, middle, last)	Name (First, middle, last)	Name (First, middle, last)	Name (First, middle, last)		
28A. Cash, bank accounts, certificates of deposit (CDs)	\$ Interest bearing: y n	\$ Interest bearing: y n	\$ Interest bearing: y n	\$ Interest bearing: y n	\$ Interest bearing: y n	\$ Interest bearing: y n		
28B. IRAs, Keogh Plans, etc.	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interestyn		
28C. Stocks, bonds, mutual funds	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n		
28D. Value of business assets	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n		
28E. Real property (Not your home)	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n		
28F. Annuities	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n		
28G. Trust Funds	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n		
28H. All other property	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest y n	Interest bearing: y n		
				OU AND YOUR I				
IMPORTANT - VA will count paymer whether to count it.	nts from any source	e, unless the law s	ays not to count ther	m. Report <i>all</i> income	and its sources and	VA will determine		
NOTE: Report the total amounts before you take out deductions for taxes, insurance, etc. Do not report the same information in both tables. If y expect to receive a payment, but you don't know how much it will be, write "Unknown" in the space. If you do not receive any payments from one of sources that we list, write "0" or "None" in the space. If you are receiving monthly benefits, give us a copy of your most recent award letter. This will be determine the amount of benefits we should pay you.				ts from one of the				
29. HAVE YOU CLAIMED OR ARE YOU RECEIVING DISABILITY BENEFITS FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA)?  YES NO								
	COME - TELL US	THE INCOME YO	U AND YOUR DEPI	ENDENTS RECEIVE	EVERY MONTH			
					(REN)			
SOURCE OF MONTHLY INCOME	VETERAN	SPOUSE	Name (First, middle, last)	Name (First, middle, last)	Name (First, middle, last)	Name (First, middle, last)		
30A. Gross Wages & Salary	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		
30B. Social Security								
30C. U.S. Civil Service								
30D. U.S. Railroad Retirement								
30E. Military Retirement								
30F. Black Lung Benefits								
30G. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Public Assistance								
30H. Other income received monthly (Please write source below)								

#### PART VII - INFORMATION ABOUT YOU AND YOUR DEPENDENTS EXPECTED ANNUAL INCOME (Continued) EXPECTED INCOME FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS - TELL US ABOUT OTHER INCOME YOU AND YOUR DEPENDENTS EXPECT TO RECEIVE CHILD(REN) Name Name Name Name SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE (First, middle, last) (First, middle, last) (First, middle, last) (First, middle, last) **VETERAN SPOUSE NEXT 12 MONTHS** \$ \$ \$ \$ 31A. Total interest and dividends 31B Worker's compensation or unemployment compensation 31C. Other income expected (Please write source below)

# PART VIII - INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MEDICAL, LEGAL OR OTHER UNREIMBURSED EXPENSES

**NOTE**: Family medical expenses and certain other expenses you actually paid may be deductible from your income. Show the amount of unreimbursed medical expenses, including the Medicare deduction, you paid over the last year for yourself or relatives who are members of your household. Also, show unreimbursed last illness and burial expenses and educational or vocational rehabilitation expenses you paid. Last illness and burial expenses are unreimbursed amounts you paid for the last illness and burial of a spouse or child at any time prior to the end of the year following the year of death. Educational or vocational rehabilitation expenses are amounts you paid for courses of education including tuition, fees, and materials. Show medical, legal or other expenses you paid because of a disability for which you were awarded civilian disability benefits. When determining your income we may be able to deduct them from the disability benefits for the year in which the expenses are paid. Do not include any expenses for which you were reimbursed. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet.

32A. AMOUNT YOU PAID	32B. DATE PAID (Month, day, year)	32C. PURPOSE (Doctor's fees, hospital charges, attorney fees, etc.)	32D. PAID TO (Name of doctor, hospital, pharmacy, etc.)	32E. DISABILITY OR RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON FOR WHOM EXPENSES PAID
\$				
\$				
\$				
\$				

#### PART IX - DIRECT DEPOSIT INFORMATION

If benefits are awarded we will need more information in order to process any payments to you. Please read the paragraph below and then either:

- 1. Attach a voided check, or
- 2. Answer Items 33-35.

All Federal payments beginning January 2, 1999, must be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) also called Direct Deposit. Please attach a voided personal check or deposit slip or provide the information requested in Items 33, 34 and 35 to enroll in Direct Deposit. If you do not have a bank account we will give you a waiver from Direct Deposit, just check the box in Item 33. The Treasury Department is working on making bank accounts available to you. Once these accounts are available, you will be able to decide whether you wish to sign-up for one of the accounts or continue to receive a paper check. You can also request a waiver if you have other circumstances that you feel would cause you a hardship to be enrolled in Direct Deposit. You can write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 125 S. Main Street, Suite B, Muskogee OK 74401-7004, and give us a brief description of why you do not wish to participate in Direct Deposit.

PART IX - DIRECT DEPOSIT INFORMATION (Continued)				
33. ACCOUNT NUMBER - PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX AND PROVIDE THE ACCOUNT NUMBER, IF A CHECKING SAVINGS I CERTIFY THAT I DO NOT HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH A FI CERTIFIED PAYMENT AGENT				
ACCOUNT NUMBER				
34. NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION				
35. ROUTING OR TRANSIT NUMBER				
PART X - REMARKS				
36. REMARKS - USE THIS SPACE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CON	CERNING YOUR APPLICATION			
PART XI - CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATUR	E			
I certify and authorize the release of information: I certify that the statements in this document are true and complete to the best of mentity, including but not limited to any organization, service provider, employer, or go Department of Veterans Affairs any information about me except protected health in which makes the information confidential.	y knowledge. I authorize any person or overnment agency, to give the			
37. SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT  38. DATE SIG	GNED			
WITNESSES TO SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT IF MADE BY "X" MARK (If you sign with an "X" then you r you as you sign. They must then sign the form and print their names and addresses.	nust have 2 people you know witness			
39A. SIGNATURE AND PRINTED NAME OF WITNESS  39B. ADDRESS OF WITNESS				
40A. SIGNATURE AND PRINTED NAME OF WITNESS  40B. ADDRESS OF WITNESS				
I certify that the statements in this document are true and complete to the best of mentity, including but not limited to any organization, service provider, employer, or go Department of Veterans Affairs any information about me except protected health in which makes the information confidential.  37. SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT  WITNESSES TO SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT IF MADE BY "X" MARK (If you sign with an "X" then you re you as you sign. They must then sign the form and print their names and addresses.  39A. SIGNATURE AND PRINTED NAME OF WITNESS  39B. ADDRESS OF WITNESS	y knowledge. I authorize any person or overnment agency, to give the formation, and I waive any privilege			

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false, or for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment to which you are not entitled.