

VA Form 21-0304, *Application for Benefits for Qualifying Veteran's
Child Born with Disabilities*,
Comment2 on Information Collection Revision
February 28, 2026

Docket: VA-2025-VACO-0001

Comment2:

On February 28, 2026, VA received a comment from Anonymous, stating that since the notice confirms that there are “No substantive changes” to the form itself, the primary area for comment rests on the burden calculation and practical utility of the existing collection process. The comment notes that the estimated annual burden has increased, resulting in an estimated average burden per respondent of 10 minutes, for an estimated 1,209 respondents annually. While the 10-minute estimate seems reasonable for a one-time application, the increase in estimated number of receivables warrants a quick check. The commenter would be interested to know if VA has explored ways to streamline the submission aspect of the already approved form. Given that this collection is intended to serve individuals potentially navigating complex medical and veteran-related issues, any effort to reduce the respondent burden beyond what is noted would be beneficial. For instance, if the form is primarily filled out online, confirming that the digital interface is intuitive and minimizes required manual input (perhaps leveraging existing VA records where possible) would enhance both clarity and utility. The commenter asks VA to confirm that the increased estimate accurately reflects the current intake trends and that all avenues for minimizing the burden – perhaps through digital uploads of supporting documentation rather than physical mail – are being maximized. The comment notes this form deals with incredibly sensitive issues for veterans' families, and ensuring the collection process itself is streamlined and non-burdensome as possible remains a key factor in its practical utility.

VBA Response2:

VA is committed to ensuring that claimants are not unduly burdened when applying for benefits and greatly respects the right to privacy of personal information. As a reflection of this commitment, VA offers multiple ways a disability compensation claim may be submitted, including online, by mail, in person, by fax, or with the assistance of an accredited attorney, claims agent, or Veterans Service Organization representative.

When establishing the estimated average burden per respondent, VA considers the estimated number of respondents and the amount of information requested by the form. To determine the annual estimated number of respondents, VA calculates the total number of completed VA Form 21-0304 received during the preceding 12-month period, regardless of how the claim was submitted. The resulting number of respondents reflects current trends and, when compared to previous data, alerts VA of possible challenges to the claim submission process and opportunities to improve efficiency. VA uses the amount and type of information requested on the form to estimate the average amount of time it would take a claimant to complete it.

Although there have been increases in the estimated number of respondents since VA Form 21-0304 was last approved, there have not been any changes to the information requested on the form. Therefore, the estimated average burden time for each respondent has not changed. As a result, no changes to VA Form 21-0304 are warranted.