

# PROTECT YOUR VA BENEFITS

Work with VA Accredited Representatives to Safeguard your Benefits from Claims Predators

## WHAT ARE CLAIMS PREDATORS?

Claims predators are “bad actors” who use aggressive communication via email, phone calls and text messages to unlawfully charge Veterans or their families a fee to “help” them process their benefits claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Claims predators utilize high-pressure sales tactics, such as limited time offers or “guarantees” of higher disability ratings or faster claim processing times, to try to convince you to use their services. These schemes target your hard-earned benefits and may subject you to excessive fees.

## TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR VA BENEFITS

- 1 Do not pay anyone to file an initial claim for your benefits:** VA urges you to use only VA accredited attorneys, claims agents, or Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representatives for help with filing initial VA benefits claims. Visit [www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/](https://www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/) for more information.
- 2 Find reputable assistance:** Go to [www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/find-rep/](https://www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/find-rep/) to use the Accreditation Search Index to find and appoint a VA accredited representative.
- 3 If you want to review or appeal a claim:** Only engage with VA accredited representatives. A VSO representative will never charge any fees for their services.

## HOW TO REPORT A CLAIMS PREDATOR?



If you suspect a representative acted unlawfully or unethically while assisting you in filing a VA benefits claim, file a report and learn more at [www.vsafe.gov](https://www.vsafe.gov) or by calling 833-38V-SAFE.