

WATCH OUT FOR CLAIMS PREDATORS!

THEY WANT TO PREY ON YOUR BENEFITS

Claims predators are “bad actors” who try to unlawfully charge Veterans a fee to “help” them process their claims with VA. They advertise their ability to expedite claims processing times and guarantee higher disability benefits evaluations in exchange for their paid services. Remember VA accredited attorneys, claims agents, and Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) provide free help. For more information or to find an accredited representative visit: www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/find-rep/.



THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS CAN BE SIGNS OF CLAIMS PREDATORS:

CHARGING HIGH FEES: Predatory companies charge absurd fees or require you to pay a portion of your VA benefits. Never pay anyone a fee to prepare, consult on, or to help file an initial claim for benefits.

MAKING DISHONEST PROMISES: Do not trust anyone who claims they can accelerate the claims process or guarantee you will obtain a 100% disability rating. Only VA can determine disability rating levels.

PRESSURE TO SIGN: Never sign a contract agreeing to pay an individual or company a fee in exchange for help with your initial VA claim.

PROTECT YOUR VA BENEFITS FROM CLAIMS PREDATORS

- **Only share sensitive information with VA** accredited attorneys, claims agents and VSO representatives.
- **VA accredited attorneys or claims agents may charge** a reasonable fee for services provided for the review or appeal of a claim. You may use a VSO representative for free assistance.
- **You do not have to make the fee payments yourself.** You can enter into a direct payment agreement. If someone is unwilling to be paid by VA, you should question why.
- **Always review forms** and do not work with someone who will not sign a VA representation form (21-22 or 21-22a).
- **Protect your personally identifiable information** and never share login credentials to access platforms or applications containing personal information, such as those for VA.gov.
- **Attend exams ordered by VA.** Veterans are entitled to a no-cost disability examination by VA, if an examination is deemed necessary to decide the claim for benefits.

If you suspect a representative acted unlawfully or unethically while assisting you in filing a VA benefits claim, file a report at www.vsafe.gov or by calling **833-38V-SAFE**.

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