

Social Security Administration's 100% Permanent & Total Veterans Initiative



The Social Security Administration is launching a new initiative in mid-March to provide expedited processing of disability claims filed by veterans who have a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total (P&T).

What do I need to know about the Veterans Affairs and Social Security programs?

Both Social Security and Veterans Affairs pay disability benefits to qualifying individuals but, their programs, processes, and criteria for receiving benefits are different. A Veterans Affairs compensation rating of 100% P&T does not guarantee that you will receive Social Security disability benefits. In order to receive disability benefits from Social Security, a person must have a severe impairment that is expected to last at least one year or to result in death. The impairment must be so severe that the person would be unable to perform any substantial work.

***Note:** If you receive Veterans Affairs compensation, this will not affect your Social Security benefits.*

As a veteran rated 100% P&T, how do I receive expedited processing from Social Security?

You must apply for Social Security benefits. There are three ways in which you can apply:

- Apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov;
- Call our toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213**. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our toll-free TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**; or
- Call or visit your local Social Security office.

What should I do to receive expedited processing of my Social Security disability application?

If you are disabled veteran rated 100% P&T, you must:

- Identify yourself as a "Veteran rated 100% P&T" when you apply for benefits. If you apply in person or over the phone, tell the Social Security representative that you are a veteran rated 100% P&T. If you apply online, enter "Veteran 100% P&T" in the "Remarks" section of the application; and
- Provide Social Security with your Veterans Affairs notification letter which verifies your rating.

How will Social Security expedite my disability claim?

Once Social Security identifies you as a veteran rated 100% P&T, we will treat your claim as a high priority workload and rush it through the application process in our field offices, our state Disability Determination Services, and the various levels of appeals.

How long does the process take?

The length of time it takes Social Security to make a disability decision depends on several factors, but primarily on:

- The nature of your disability;
- How quickly we obtain medical evidence from your doctor or other medical sources; and
- Whether it is necessary to send you for a medical examination in order to obtain evidence to support your claim.

You can assist in the process by having the required information on hand when you apply.

What about veterans that live abroad?

We recognize that many of our veterans live abroad; we have similar processes in place to expedite their claims.

For more information

You can find more information at:
www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm.