



WHAT CAN VETERANS DO IF THEY DON'T AGREE WITH THEIR INITIAL CLAIM DECISION

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (AMA) created a new decision review process for claims and appeals and applies to Veterans who receive an initial VA decision on or after February 19, 2019.

AMA created three lanes for Veterans to choose from. We encourage you to work with your VSO or representative to assist you in determining the best choice for you and your case.

Supplemental Claim Processed by VBA, NCA or VHA	Higher-Level Review Processed by VBA, NCA or VHA	Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board)
<p>A Supplemental claim is an option if after you receive a decision you identify new and relevant evidence such as medical evidence. You can submit that evidence along with a VA Form 20-0995 to have your claim reviewed with that new evidence and if granted, you will maintain your original effective date. This is an option for any decision from VA to include a Board decision. You have one (1) year from the date of the original decision to submit the evidence and VA Form 20-0995.</p>	<p>The Higher-Level Review is an option when you believe there was a misinterpretation of the evidence in the record when the decision was made. You may not submit any additional evidence. You have one (1) year from the date of the decision to elect this option by submitting a VA Form 20-0996. This is the fastest option for another decision.</p>	<p>The option to appeal directly to the Board is available after any decision made by the VA except for Board decisions by submitting a VA Form 10182 within one (1) year of the decision you are appealing. When choosing this option, you have another choice to make. Which Board option is the best? Your representative can assist you in making this choice.</p>

Veterans who appeal directly to the Board must choose between one of three options.

Direct Review	Evidence Submission	Hearing with a Veterans Law Judge (VLJ)
<p>This is the fastest option at the Board. This is a great option if you feel there is misinterpretation of law or facts of the case.</p>	<p>This lane allows for additional evidence to be submitted within 90 days of appealing to the Board. Only additional evidence to support what is already in your file can be considered.</p>	<p>The hearing lane is the longest option for a decision at the Board. This option is best if you feel like your words and story would not have the same impact if submitted in writing and would like to speak directly with a VLJ. *Currently only virtual hearings are available</p>