

Department of Veterans Affairs **APPOINTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION AS CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE**

Note - If you would prefer to have an individual assist you with your claim, you may use VA Form 21-22a, "Appointment of Individual As Claimant's Representative."

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ THE PRIVACY ACT AND RESPONDENT BURDEN ON REVERSE BEFORE COMPLETING THE FORM.

1. LAST-FIRST-MIDDLE NAME OF VETERAN	2. VA FILE NUMBER <i>(Include prefix)</i>
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3A. NAME OF SERVICE ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS *(See list on reverse side before selecting organization)*

3B. JOB TITLE OF OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AUTHORIZED TO ACT ON VETERAN'S BEHALF

INSTRUCTIONS - TYPE OR PRINT ALL ENTRIES

4. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	5. INSURANCE NUMBER(S) <i>(Include letter prefix)</i>
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6A. SERVICE NUMBER(S)	6B. BRANCH OF SERVICE
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7. NAME OF CLAIMANT <i>(If other than veteran)</i>	8. RELATIONSHIP <i>(If other than veteran)</i>
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9. ADDRESS OF CLAIMANT <i>(No. and street or rural route, city or P.O., State and ZIP Code)</i>	10. CLAIMANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBERS <i>(Include Area Code)</i>	
	A. DAYTIME	B. EVENING
	11. E-MAIL ADDRESS <i>(If applicable)</i>	
	12. DATE OF THIS APPOINTMENT	

13. AUTHORIZATION FOR REPRESENTATIVE'S ACCESS TO RECORDS PROTECTED BY SECTION 7332, TITLE 38, U.S.C.
 Unless I check the box below, I **do not authorize** VA to disclose to the service organization named on this appointment form any records that may be in my file relating to treatment for drug abuse, alcoholism or alcohol abuse, infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), or sickle cell anemia.

I authorize the VA facility having custody of my VA claimant records to disclose to the service organization named in Item 3A all treatment records relating to drug abuse, alcoholism or alcohol abuse, infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), or sickle cell anemia. Redisclosure of these records by my service organization representative, other than to VA or the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, is not authorized without my further written consent. This authorization will remain in effect until the earlier of the following events: (1) I revoke this authorization by filing a written revocation with VA; or (2) I revoke the appointment of the service organization named above, either by explicit revocation or the appointment of another representative.

14. LIMITATION OF CONSENT - My consent in Item 13 for the disclosure of records relating to treatment for drug abuse, alcoholism or alcohol abuse, infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), or sickle cell anemia is limited as follows:

I, the claimant named in Items 1 or 7, hereby appoint the service organization named in Item 3A as my representative to prepare, present and prosecute my claim for any and all benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs based on the service of the veteran named in Item 1. I authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to release any and all of my records, to include disclosure of my Federal tax information (other than as provided in Items 13 and 14), to that service organization appointed as my representative. It is understood that no fee or compensation of whatsoever nature will be charged me for service rendered pursuant to this power of attorney. I understand that the service organization I have appointed as my representative may revoke this power of attorney at any time, subject to 38 CFR 20.608. *Additionally, in those cases where a veteran's income is being developed because of an income verification necessitated by an Internal Revenue Service verification match, the assignment of the service organization as the veteran's representative is only valid for five years from the date this form is signed for purposes restricted to the verification match.* Signed and accepted subject to the foregoing conditions.

THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY DOES NOT REQUIRE EXECUTION BEFORE A NOTARY PUBLIC

15. SIGNATURE OF CLAIMANT <i>(Do Not Print)</i>	16. DATE SIGNED
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VA USE ONLY	VA FORM 21-22-1 SENT TO:	DATE SENT	ACKNOWLEDGED <i>(Date)</i>	REVOKED <i>(Reason and date)</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> CER FILE <input type="checkbox"/> EDU FILE <input type="checkbox"/> INSURANCE FILE <input type="checkbox"/> CH. 30 <input type="checkbox"/> DEA FILE <input type="checkbox"/> LG FILE			

NOTE: As long as this appointment is in effect, the organization named herein will be recognized as the sole agent for presentation of your claim before the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with your claim or any portion thereof.

RECOGNIZED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Membership in an organization is not a prerequisite to appointment of the organization as claimant's representative.

The following is a listing of National Organizations recognized by the Secretary in the preparation and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

African American PTSD Association	National Amputation Foundation, Inc.
American Legion	National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Inc.
American Red Cross	National Association for Black Veterans, Inc.
AMVETS	National Veterans Legal Services Program
American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.	National Veterans Organization of America
American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Inc.	Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA
American GI Forum, National Veterans Outreach Program	Navy Mutual Aid Association
Armed Forces Services Corporation	Paralyzed Veterans of America, Inc.
Army and Navy Union, USA	Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.
Blinded Veterans Association	Swords to Plowshares, Veterans Rights Organization, Inc.
Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A.	The Retired Enlisted Association
Disabled American Veterans	The Veterans Assistance Foundation, Inc.
Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association	The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition
Fleet Reserve Association	United Spanish War Veterans of the United States
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.	Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Italian American War Veterans of the United States, Inc.	Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., Inc.
Jewish War Veterans of the United States	Vietnam Era Veterans Association
Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Inc.	Vietnam Veterans of America
Marine Corps League	
Military Order of the Purple Heart	

Although agency titles vary, the following States and possessions maintain veterans service agencies which are recognized to present claims.

Alabama	Guam	Minnesota	North Carolina	South Dakota
American Samoa	Hawaii	Mississippi	North Dakota	Tennessee
Arizona	Idaho	Missouri	Northern Mariana Islands	Texas
Arkansas	Illinois	Montana	Ohio	Utah
California	Kansas	Nebraska	Oklahoma	Vermont
Colorado	Kentucky	Nevada	Oregon	Virginia
Connecticut	Louisiana	New Hampshire	Pennsylvania	Virgin Islands
Delaware	Maine	New Jersey	Puerto Rico	Washington
Florida	Maryland	New Mexico	Rhode Island	West Virginia
Georgia	Massachusetts	New York	South Carolina	Wisconsin

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records-VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is voluntary. However, the requested information is considered relevant and necessary to recognize a service organization as your representative and/or identify disclosable records. VA uses your SSN to identify your claim file. Providing your SSN will help ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. Giving us your SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide your SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to recognize the service organization you name to act on your behalf in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for VA benefits (38 U.S.C. 5902). We will also use the information to identify any VA records that we may disclose to the service organization (38 U.S.C. 5701(b)). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 5 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/library/OMBINV.VA.EPA.html#VA. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.