



February 21, 2020  
MICHAEL LITTLE

**We have included with this letter:**

1. Explanation of Payment
2. Additional Benefits
3. Where to Send Written Correspondence
4. VA Form 20-0998
5. Rating Decision

## We made a decision on your VA benefits.

Dear Michael Little:

This letter will guide you through the information you should know and steps you may take now that VA has made a decision about your benefits.

Your dependents may be eligible for Dependents' Educational Assistance (Chapter 35). For more information on this program, please visit the following website: <https://www.vets.gov/education/gi-bill/survivors-dependent-assistance/> or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

### Your Benefit Information:

- Basic eligibility to Dependents' Educational Assistance is established from June 19, 2019.
- Evaluation of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and major depressive disorder, which is currently 100 percent disabling, is continued.

See **Rating Decision** to find out why we made this decision.

Your monthly entitlement amount is shown below:

Monthly Entitlement Amount	Payment Start Date	Reason
	Dec 1, 2019	Cost of Living Adjustment
	Sep 2, 2034	Minor Child Adjustment
	Mar 9, 2036	Minor Child Adjustment

**Contact information:**

Web: [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov)  
Phone: 1-800-827-1000  
TDD: 711

To send questions online: visit  
<https://iris.custhelp.com/>

**Social Media:**

Twitter: @VAVetBenefits  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits](https://www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits)

**Your representative:**

You appointed VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE US as your accredited representative. They have also received a copy of this letter.

They can help you with any questions you have about your claim.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the *Veterans Crisis Line* at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

File Number:  
LITTLE, MICHAEL

We are currently paying you as a Veteran with 3 dependents. *Let us know right away if there is any change in the status of your dependents.*

If payments are due, you should receive your first payment, if not already in receipt of payments, within 7-10 days of this notice.

See **Explanation of Payment** for more details about your payment.

Your payment will be directed to the financial institution and account number that you specified. To confirm when your payment was deposited, please contact your financial institution.

If this account is no longer open,

*please notify us immediately.*

### **What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision**

If you do not agree with our decision, you have one year from the date of this letter to select a review option in order to protect your initial filing date for effective date purposes. You must file your request on the required application form for the review option desired. The table below represents the review options and their respective required application form.

Review Option	Required Application Form
<b>Supplemental Claim</b>	VA Form 20-0995, <i>Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim</i>
<b>Higher-Level Review</b>	VA Form 20-0996, <i>Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review</i>
<b>Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals</b>	VA Form 10182, <i>Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)</i>

**Please note:** You may not request a higher-level review of a higher-level review decision issued by VA.

The enclosed VA Form 20-0998, *Your Rights To Seek Further Review Of Our Decision*, explains your options in greater detail and provides instructions on how to request further review. You may download a copy of any of the required application forms noted above by visiting [www.va.gov/vaforms/](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/) or you may contact us by telephone at 1-800-827-1000 and we will mail you any form you need.

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You can visit [www.va.gov/decision-reviews](http://www.va.gov/decision-reviews) to learn more about how the disagreement process works.

If you would like to obtain or access evidence used in making this decision, please contact us by telephone, email, or letter as noted below letting us know what you would like to obtain. Some evidence may be obtained online by visiting [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

Thank you for your service,

**Regional Office Director**

cc: VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE US



## Explanation of Payment

Your monthly entitlement amount includes payment for the following dependent(s):

Payment Start Date	Award Dependent(s)
Dec 1, 2019	,
Sep 2, 2034	
Mar 9, 2036	

Let us know right away if there is any change in the status of your dependent(s).

## **Please Take Action: What Things Affect Your Right to Payment?**

Please notify VA *immediately* if there is a change in any condition affecting your right to continued payments. If you don't notify us of these changes immediately, you may have to return any overpayments. Those changes include:

### **Evidence received shows a change is warranted.**

**Military Pay or Worker's Compensation:** Your payments may be affected by the following, which you must bring to our attention:

- Reentrance into active military or naval service.
- Receipt of armed forces service retirement pay, unless your retirement pay has already been reduced because of award of disability compensation.
- Receipt of benefits from the Office of Federal Employees Compensation.
- Receipt of active duty or drill pay as a reservist or member of the National Guard.

**Dependents:** If you have a disability rating of 30 percent or more, you must advise VA of any change with your spouse or children.

**Hospitalization:** If your award includes Aid and Attendance benefits, we may reduce this additional allowance if you are admitted to a hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care at VA expense.

**Incarceration:** Benefits will be reduced if you are incarcerated in a federal, state, or local penal institution for more than 60 days for conviction of a felony.

**Lack of Cooperation:** We may stop monthly payments if you:

- fail to submit evidence we requested,
- fail to attend a VA examination when requested, or
- Submit false or fraudulent evidence to VA, or cause false or fraudulent evidence to be submitted to VA.



**Evidence received shows a change is warranted.**

**Fraud/Lying to Government:** The law provides severe penalties, which include fines, imprisonment, or both, for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment to which you are not entitled. We may verify information you submit through computer-matching programs with other agencies.

## **Additional Benefits**

### **Education, Training, and Student Loans:**

- Education loans: For more information, please call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or visit [www.vets.gov/education](http://www.vets.gov/education).
- Veterans with student loans: For more information, please call 1-888-303-7818 or visit [www.disabilitydischarge.com/](http://www.disabilitydischarge.com/).

### **Medical Care and Treatment:**

- Mental Health Counseling: For more information, please visit [www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/](http://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/).
- Blind Rehabilitation: For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/blindrehab/](http://www.va.gov/blindrehab/).
- Change in Compensation Benefits: For more information, please call 1-877-222-VETS or visit [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).
- Clothing Allowance: For more information, please call 1-800-827-1000 or visit [www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/conditions/special-claims/clothing/](http://www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/conditions/special-claims/clothing/).
- VA Medical Care: Present a copy of this notification letter to the Patient Registration/Eligibility Section at your nearest VA Medical Center [www.vets.gov/facility-locator/](http://www.vets.gov/facility-locator/).
- Dental Benefits: For more information, please contact your nearest VA Medical Center or outpatient clinic [www.vets.gov/facility-locator/](http://www.vets.gov/facility-locator/).
- Spouse or child health care: For more information, please call 1-800-733-8387 or visit [www.va.gov/purchasedcare/programs/dependents/champva/](http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/programs/dependents/champva/).

### **Home Adaptations/Loans, Automobile Benefits, and Life Insurance:**

- Loans: For more information, please visit [www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/](http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/).
- Funding Fee Refund: If you paid a funding fee at the closing of a VA guaranteed home loan and your VA compensation award provides an effective rating date that was prior to your loan closing date, then you may be eligible for a funding fee refund. Please contact either

your current mortgage servicer or a VA Regional Loan Center at (877) 827-3702 to begin the refund process.

- Home upgrade due to disability: For more information, please visit [www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp).
- Car upgrade due to disability: For more information, please call 1-800-827-1000 or visit [www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/conditions/special-claims/automobile/](http://www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/conditions/special-claims/automobile/).
- Government life insurance premiums: For more information, please call 1-800-669-8477 or visit [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance).

### **Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange:**

- Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange: For more information, please visit [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov) to locate your Regional Benefit Office, please visit [www.vets.gov/facility-locator/](http://www.vets.gov/facility-locator/).

### **Payment for Travel:**

- Payment for Travel: You may be eligible for reimbursement for beneficial travel mileage for previous VA medical appointments because of your newly granted service-connected conditions. You must make a request for such reimbursement **within 30 days of this letter** by contacting the Enrollment office at your Medical Center and providing a copy of this letter.

### **State Benefits:**

- State Benefits: For more information, please visit [www.va.gov/statedva.htm](http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm).

### **Social Security Administration (SSA) Benefits:**

- Social Security Administration (SSA) Benefits: For more information about Social Security benefits, please call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 (Hearing Impaired TTY line 1-800-325-0778) or visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).



### Where to Send Your Written Correspondence

The time it takes your response to reach VA affects how long it takes us to process your claim. We recommend responding electronically whenever possible. Only claimants or representatives can upload responses electronically currently. If you are not a claimant or representative, we recommend faxing so VA can receive your responses without wasting the time and money required to mail your documents.

The **fastest** way to respond to VA is to upload your response electronically through VA.gov.

Visit <https://www.va.gov> and under **Disability** click "Upload evidence to support your claim"

VA.gov provides one easy location to upload correspondence as well as learn about filing claims, check claim status, find out how much money you have left to pay for school or training, or refill prescriptions and communicate with your health care team among many items.

If you need to fax or mail your correspondence, identify the benefit type; then, use the corresponding fax number or mailing address below:

#### Faxing:

<b><u>Compensation Claims</u></b> Toll Free: 1-844-531-7818	<b><u>Pension &amp; Survivors Benefit Claims</u></b> Toll Free: 1-844-655-1604
<b><u>Board of Veterans' Appeals</u></b> Toll Free: 1-844-678-8979	<b><u>Fiduciary</u></b> Toll Free: 1-888-581-6826

#### Mailing Addresses:

<b><u>Compensation Claims</u></b> Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547-4444	<b><u>Pension &amp; Survivors Benefit Claims</u></b> Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Intake Center P.O. Box 5365 Janesville, WI 53547-5365
<b><u>Board of Veterans' Appeals</u></b> Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals P.O. Box 27063 Washington, DC 20038	<b><u>Fiduciary</u></b> Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Intake Center P.O. Box 5211 Janesville, WI 53547-5211

These addresses serve **all United States and foreign locations.**



You can also send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. For more information, visit [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)





# YOUR RIGHTS TO SEEK FURTHER REVIEW OF OUR DECISION

After careful and compassionate consideration of the matter(s) before VA, we have reached a decision. This document outlines your rights to seek further review of our decision on any issue with which you are dissatisfied or disagree. This document does not apply to decisions issued by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board), which have a separate rights notice. For **most VA benefits**, you must elect one of the review options discussed below within **one year** of the date on your decision notice letter to preserve your right to receive the maximum possible benefit. **Consult your decision notice letter for specific filing time limits.** If you are a party to a **contested claim**, you must file an appeal to the Board within **60 days** of the date on your decision notice letter in order to seek review. All parties to a contested claim will have received notice of the decision. See the section below regarding filing an appeal to the Board. You may select different review options for each issue decided by VA. The options are as follows:

Review Options	VA Benefit Claim	Parties to a Contested Claim	Insurance Claim	Fiduciary Decision
<b>Supplemental Claim</b>		Not Available		Not Available
<b>Higher-Level Review</b>		Not Available		
<b>Appeal to the Board</b>				
<b>U.S. District Court Complaint</b>	Not Available	Not Available		Not Available

*VA benefits include Compensation, Pension/Survivors Benefits, Education, Loan Guaranty, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment, Veterans Health Administration, or National Cemetery Administration.*

You **MAY NOT** concurrently file for review of any single issue using more than one option at a time. The following is an overview of each option to help you select the most appropriate course of action. You can also find detailed information on all of the available review options and apply at [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov).

## Descriptions of Review Options

Supplemental Claim	Higher-Level Review	Appeal to the Board	U. S. District Court
<p><b>Use this option when you have additional evidence that is NEW AND RELEVANT</b> to support granting the benefit(s) sought or you can identify existing relevant records that you would like VA to obtain. (<b>NEW evidence</b> means information not previously submitted to VA, and <b>RELEVANT evidence</b> means information that tends to prove or disprove a matter at issue.)</p> <p>VA will assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence to support a Supplemental Claim.</p>	<p><b>Use this option when you have NO additional evidence</b> to submit, or that you would like VA to obtain, in support of a previously decided issue.</p> <p>You <b>may not</b> request a Higher-Level Review of a Higher-Level Review decision or a Board decision.</p> <p>The designated reviewer will conduct a brand new review of the issue(s) based on the evidence that was before VA at the time of the prior decision(s). An <b>informal conference</b> is available to you and/or your representative, if you choose to exercise this option. The purpose of this telephonic contact is to point out specific errors in the case. VA will not consider any new evidence.</p>	<p><b>Use this option to appeal to the Board for consideration by a Veterans Law Judge.</b> You may appeal to the Board from a Supplemental Claim decision or a Higher-Level Review decision.</p> <p>When appealing to the Board, you may request a hearing with a Veterans Law Judge and/or the opportunity to submit additional evidence. You may also choose for the Board to review your claim without any additional evidence or a hearing, which may result in a faster decision. By selecting one of these options, the Board will place your appeal onto a list for consideration in the order it was received.</p> <p>The Board does not have a duty to assist you in obtaining additional evidence, but may review whether VA properly fulfilled its duty to assist you in the original claim process and may remand your claim on that basis.</p>	<p><b>(INSURANCE CLAIMS ONLY)</b></p> <p>You may challenge VA's decision on your insurance application or claim by filing a complaint with a United States district court in the jurisdiction in which you reside within six years from when the right of action first accrues.</p> <p>To find a district court, use the map at: <a href="http://www.uscourts.gov/court_locator.aspx">www.uscourts.gov/court_locator.aspx</a>.</p>



## How do I request review by VA of my decision?

To select a review option, you must submit the appropriate form to the appropriate office for review.

For a **Supplemental Claim**, consult your decision notice letter for the required forms and ways to submit the request.

For a **Higher-Level Review**, complete **VA Form 20-0996, Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review** (available at [www.va.gov/vaforms/](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/)), and consult your decision notice letter for the required ways to submit the request.

To **Appeal to the Board**, complete **VA Form 10182 - Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)** (available at [www.va.gov/vaforms/](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/)), and send the form to:

**Board of Veterans' Appeals**  
**P.O. Box 27063**  
**Washington, DC 20038**  
**Fax: 844-678-8979**

## Can someone help me with my request for review?

Yes, VA recognizes and accredits attorneys, claims agents, and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) representatives to assist VA claimants with their benefits claims. VSOs and their representatives are not permitted to charge fees or accept gifts for their services. Only VA-accredited attorneys and claims agents may charge you fees for assisting in a claim for VA benefits, and only after VA has issued an initial decision on the claim and the attorney or claims agent has complied with the power-of-attorney and the fee agreement requirements. For more information on the types of representatives available, see [www.va.gov/ogc/accreditation.asp](http://www.va.gov/ogc/accreditation.asp).

If you have not already selected a representative, or if you want to change your representative, a searchable database of VA-recognized VSOs and VA-accredited attorneys, claims agents, and VSO representatives is available at [www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp). Contact your local VA office for assistance with appointing a representative or visit [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov).

## What happens if I do not submit my request for review on time?

If you do not request a review option within the required time limit, you may only seek review through the following options:

- File a request for revision of the decision based on a clear and unmistakable error in the decision;
- File a Supplemental Claim along with new and relevant evidence to support your issue(s). Where a Supplemental Claim is filed after the time limit to seek review of a decision, the effective date for any resulting award of benefits generally will be tied to the date that VA receives the Supplemental Claim.

For more information on all the available review options visit: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov), or [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov) or contact us at 1-800-827-1000.

**NOTE:** This form supersedes VA Forms 4107, 4107C, 4107VHA, 4107VRE, 4107INS for VA decisions after the publication in the Federal Register of the applicability date on which the *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017* goes into effect.