



STATE OF OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Changes in VA Law May Affect How Veterans' Claims Are Processed Over the Recent Years

OKLAHOMA CITY — Veterans who applied for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits in the past — or who have never applied — may want to review their eligibility as changes in federal law and VA policy can affect how claims are processed.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, a federal agency, administers benefits through separate systems with different eligibility requirements. VA health care is managed by the Veterans Health Administration, while disability compensation and other benefits are handled by the Veterans Benefits Administration. Eligibility decisions in one system do not automatically determine eligibility in the other.

Recent updates to VA law and policy, including expanded presumptive conditions and revised service-connection guidance, may affect how claims are reviewed today. Veterans who were previously denied, paused the claims process, or have not revisited their eligibility in several years may benefit from having their information reviewed.

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA), a state agency, works with the federal VA to help veterans understand the claims process and available options. Veterans are encouraged to review their service history and medical conditions and to speak with an accredited Veteran Service Officer (VSO). VSOs provide free assistance and help ensure claims are submitted with current information.

In addition to claims assistance, ODVA offers state-level programs for veterans and their families, including a Women Veterans Program, employment assistance, entrepreneurship support, long-term care services, and the Oklahoma Veterans Registry, which helps connect veterans with available resources and outreach opportunities.

Veterans seeking more information can contact the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs at 405-523-4026 or visit oklahoma.gov/veterans.

About the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs:

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) delivers high-quality care, benefits, and support to Oklahoma veterans and their families through programs such as State Veterans Homes, Claims & Benefits, OKVetWorks, Women Veterans, Health & Wellness, Mental Health, and the Veterans Registry.

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