

Veteran Claims Made Easy™

A Marine's Guide to Filing Correctly & Winning the Benefits You Earned

RESOURCE 15 – FULLY DEVELOPED CLAIM (FDC) CHECKLIST

Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Checklist

Use this checklist to confirm your claim is truly ready to be filed as a Fully Developed Claim.

Selecting “Fully Developed Claim” tells the VA you are submitting **all evidence up front**.

If evidence is missing, the VA may remove your claim from FDC processing — slowing everything down.

SECTION 1 — CLAIM BASICS

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I know exactly which condition(s) I am claiming
 - ☐ I understand whether each condition is new, secondary, aggravated, or an increase
 - ☐ I have reviewed the VA rating criteria for each condition
 - ☐ I have selected the correct claim type on VA.gov
-

SECTION 2 — CURRENT MEDICAL EVIDENCE

- ☐ I have a **current diagnosis** for each claimed condition
 - ☐ Diagnosis is supported by VA or private medical records
 - ☐ Diagnostic testing is included (if applicable)
 - ☐ Treatment records are included or already in VA possession
 - ☐ Private records are uploaded or VA Form 21-4142/4142a is complete
-

SECTION 3 — SERVICE CONNECTION EVIDENCE

For each condition, confirm:

- ☐ In-service event, injury, or exposure is documented
 - ☐ STRs or service records support the event **or**
 - ☐ Buddy statements or personal statements fill the gap
 - ☐ MOS or deployment evidence supports the claim
-

SECTION 4 — NEXUS / LINK TO SERVICE

- ☐ I clearly explained how my condition is connected to service
 - ☐ I included a nexus-style explanation or medical opinion (if available)
 - ☐ Timeline from service to diagnosis is clearly documented
 - ☐ Any gaps in treatment are explained
-

SECTION 5 — SEVERITY & FUNCTIONAL IMPACT

- ☐ Symptoms are clearly described
 - ☐ Functional limitations are documented
 - ☐ Flare-ups are described (frequency, severity, duration)
 - ☐ Worst-day symptoms are addressed
 - ☐ Symptom logs are included (if applicable)
-

SECTION 6 — SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

- ☐ Personal statement included
- ☐ Buddy statement(s) included (if applicable)
- ☐ Spouse/family observations included (if helpful)

SECTION 7 — ADMINISTRATIVE READINESS

- ☐ All documents are labeled clearly
 - ☐ Evidence Packet Cover Page is included
 - ☐ Documents are uploaded in logical order
 - ☐ I understand I may still be scheduled for a C&P exam
 - ☐ I understand I should not submit new evidence after filing an FDC
-

SECTION 8 — FINAL FDC CONFIDENCE CHECK

Before submitting, answer YES to all:

- ☐ I believe all relevant evidence is included
- ☐ I am not waiting on any medical records
- ☐ I am not planning to submit additional evidence later
- ☐ I am comfortable selecting “Fully Developed Claim”

If you answered **NO** to any item above, consider filing a **Standard Claim** instead.

SECTION 9 — FILING DETAILS

VA.gov submission date: _____

Conditions filed:

Notes:



IMPORTANT NOTES

- FDC processing can be faster *only if truly complete*
 - Filing FDC with missing evidence can delay your claim
 - This checklist helps protect your timeline and effective date
-

When you approve this one, we'll move into **Resource 16: Intent to File Checklist** — a small but financially critical tool.

Just say:

“Approved. Move to Resource 16.”