

Gratiot County

Department of Veterans Affairs

PO Box 68, 214 E. Center St., Ithaca, MI 48847 veterans@gratiotmi.com (989) 875-5258 FAX (989) 875-5209

Veterans VA Benefits Checklist

**The following items are needed to complete your application for benefits.
Contact this office to schedule your Benefits Review appointment.**

- Military Discharge (DD-214, Report of Separation, etc.)
 - Original or certified copies will help expedite the process
- Current Marriage Certificate
- Proof that previous marriages have been terminated
 - Names, Dates and Location of all Previous Marriages for the veteran and current spouse
 - Divorce Decrees or Death Certificates of all Previous Marriages for veteran and spouse
- Birth Certificate for each dependent child. Dependent child is defined as:
 - Under age 18 or under age 23 and still in school
 - Step-child residing in the veteran's household
 - Adopted child
 - Helpless child – Adult dependent child disabled prior to age 18
 - **Note:** Court-appointed guardianship does **not** qualify as a dependent
- Social Security number for each dependent (including spouse)
- Any correspondence from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Direct Deposit information/void check (bank, routing and account number)**

FOR COMPENSATION CLAIMS:

- Medical evidence of your diagnosis including statement(s) from doctor(s) showing current medical condition being claimed that list date of diagnosis and doctor's contact information
- Medical evidence indicating the disability was caused by or occurred during active-duty service
- Service treatment records, eyewitness accounts, or other evidence you believe will support your claim

FOR PENSION CLAIMS:

- Gross household income including details of deductions. **All** income must be reported.
 - To include: Earned Interest, IRA withdrawals, Business/Farm/Rental income, etc.
 - Copy of Social Security, pension or annuity award letters showing current benefit rate
- Detailed asset information
 - Recent account statements (checking, savings, annuity, IRA, stocks, etc.)
 - Value of property (other than homestead)
 - Asset allocations (Trusts, disbursement of property in past 3 years)
- Monthly amount of healthcare expenses – Medicare, insurance premiums, co-pays, supplies, accommodations (Medical, prescriptions, dental, Nursing Home or Assisted Living, etc.)