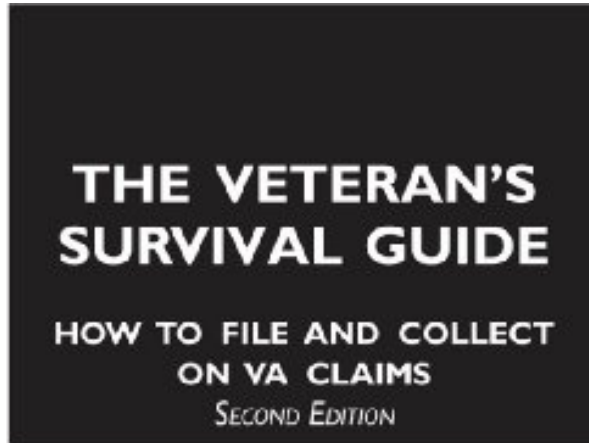


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The Veteran's Survival Guide: How to File and Collect on VA Claims, Second Edition

John D. Roche


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John D. Roche : The Veteran's Survival Guide: How to File and Collect on VA Claims, Second Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Veteran's Survival Guide: How to File and Collect on VA Claims, Second Edition:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Book Helped with Service-Connection in less than 10 Months!By

Matthew Shea This book is so thorough, I received my service-connection rating of 50% in less than 10 months! You read that right. VA estimation on decision was between April-December 2014. Claim submitted Dec 9; 2012. The key to getting your claim processed quickly painlessly is to do ALL this book tells you to do. Prepare a thorough claim, including any and all information up-front and your claim will be quick painless. I had all record releases, all medical records from multiple doctors, all letters backing documentation neatly put together BEFORE submitting my claim. Another thing I did to make the claims examiner's job easier was to include my last name and SSN on the top right of EVERY page of documentation. This is a key thing to do, it takes a while, especially when you have about 100 pages as I did, but well worth it. VA claims examiners are NOT your enemy, they have a huge job to do every day. The more you assist them in the beginning, the quicker the claim. Make sure to have a representative to assist you, such as the DAV or local Vet Center, invaluable advice and help, trust me on this. If you have been frustrated by the whole process, or have been previously denied, DON'T give up. Re-submit a thorough claim and you are on your way to receiving the compensation you deserve for your service-connected injury- physical or mental. My copy is dog-eared, underlined highlighted throughout. So much great information, just make sure to use the info. Don't just read it do nothing expecting a miracle. Read through the book first, then go back re-read each chapter create a list with short notes of what you need to do. Worth the time effort, believe me. Buy this book, better yet, also buy a copy for a family member fellow soldier to assist in their claims. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Remember, this is a "self-help" book.

By R. Williams I almost threw away this book. I am sure glad I didn't. I started reading the Preface and the Introduction, and then started in on Chapter 1. I was very disappointed and almost threw away this book. I am sick and tired of hearing able bodied veterans at work complaining about how the system prevents them from getting what they want. These guys at work are in better health than I am, are receiving disability and want more. What they want is 100% disability and not having to work anymore. The beginning of this book turned me off because it seemed to me to be just like the guys I work with; just a bunch of whining and complaining. However, I put it aside and went back to it later. I decided to skim through a couple of the other chapters before I made the final decision as to whether I should keep it or throw it away. That was when I discovered the good that is hidden in this book. There is a lot of good information in here, but you will have to dig it out, just like you will have to research and dig out the information you will need to submit your claim. I recommend you go through the table of contents and see what each chapter covers and just read the chapter that interests you the most. For example, I started with Chapter 7, "Claims Based on Secondary Disabilities". I then skipped around in the book, reading different chapters. I have read the entire book now and I have started re-reading various chapters. Think of this book as a resource guide. In fact, skip the Preface, Introduction and the first two chapters and start with Chapter 3, "No Evidence, No Benefits". This gets you to the heart of the matter right away. After you have read the rest of the book, then you can go back and read Chapter 2. Pay close attention to Appendix A thru D in the back of the book. These give you a list of Abbreviations, Glossary of Definitions, and Survival Rules. Lots of good information. Also Chapter 13, "Doctrine of Reasonable Doubt", has case law in it, which you may think is a bunch of boring legal nonsense, but there is a lot of meat here to chew on. In fact, you need to read this section over and over, to get a feel for the process and the system. I give this book 5 stars and recommend you study it. Not read it; Study it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good content, but the appendices are all jacked up ...

By Robbase Good content, but the appendices are all jacked up making it challenging to find specifics - very, very frustrating.

"Claim denied!" All too often millions of veterans have received this response to their legitimate claims for federal benefits. In most cases, writes veterans' advocate John D. Roche, the claimant didn't understand the procedures needed to meet the myriad requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs. With the appeals process requiring years to resolve disputes, deserving veterans and their dependents are left confused and frustrated by the agency and a system that was created to serve them. The answer is to submit a well-grounded claim initially, which *The Veteran's Survival Guide*, now in a revised, second edition, analyzes in detail. This unique book, written in an accessible self-help style, will be required reading for any veteran or veteran's dependent who wishes to obtain his or her well-earned benefits and for those officials of veterans' service organizations who assist veterans with their claims.

From Library Journal The author, a former claims adjudication specialist for the Veteran's Administration (VA), assembles the information veterans and their dependents need to file a claim for their federal benefits. According to Roche, the process is slow and complicated, and the VA is not helpful to those pursuing their rights. Roche concentrates on instructing readers in the key elements for securing benefits: constructing a "well-grounded claim" and complying with claims procedures. In plain language, he provides detailed descriptions of the steps involved and illustrates the discussion with examples and cautions. The author pulls no punches regarding the difficulties claimants encounter and succeeds in providing them with the information they need to work through a tangled system. Highly recommended for public libraries. Joan Pedzich, Harris Beach LLP, Rochester, NY Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. PRAISE FOR THE FIRST EDITION: "This is truly the best and most helpful book on the subject that I have come across in my three decades of helping veterans. Author John D. Roche has taken all his personal

experience of having worked for the VA and for veterans in Florida and put it into . . . easy-to-follow language. **BEST DAMN BOOK ON VA CLAIMS EVER WRITTEN!**"As a long-standing member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I can attest to the complexity of the veterans' claims processing system. Calling on his years of experience as a county service officer, John has developed a comprehensive guide to veterans' claims processing, and I highly recommend it to all those who assist our nation's veterans in receiving the compensation and benefits they have earned."I've been filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans' Affairs for thirteen years, and I wish this book had been available when I first started. John Roche goes beyond just regurgitating federal regulations and gives the reader a step-by-step guide to establishing a well-grounded claim. A special note to those who are about to leave military service: please read this book before you do. It is an invaluable source of information regarding the records you'll need to copy before you go. It's much easier locating your records now than several years down the line."Highly recommended for public libraries."From the PublisherUpdated and revised to include changes to chapters on the veterans' benefit system, the internal structure of the VA's Adjudication Division, and total disability claims Offers step-by-step instructions on how to prepare a well-grounded claim for veterans' benefits Written from an insider's perspective on the VA's claims adjudication and appeal process