

## **Adding or Removing Dependents to a VA Compensation Rating**

### Am I eligible to add dependents to my VA compensation rating?

If you have a *30% or higher rating* from VA, you can add your dependents to your compensation benefits. Adding dependents to your benefits means you may be eligible for a higher payment, also known as a “benefit rate.”

### Who is considered a “dependent?”

Dependents you can add to your compensation rating include:

- A spouse (including spouses in same-sex marriages and common-law marriages)
- Children (including biological children, stepchildren, and adopted children) who are unmarried and either:
  - Under the age of eighteen,*
  - Between the ages of 18-23 and enrolled in school full time, or*
  - Were seriously disabled before the age of 18*
- Parents, whose income and net worth are below the limit set by the law

### Q: I didn't know I could add dependents to my disability compensation rating. Do I get paid back to the date my spouse and I got married and when my children were born?

VA may pay you back to the date of your marriage or the birth of your child if you had already received your 30% or higher disability rating at that point and:

- Notified VA within one year of the date the dependency arose, and
- Responded within one year to VA's request for any additional information needed to confirm your dependent(s)

If it has been longer than a year since your marriage and/or birth of your child, VA may only pay you back to the date you submitted your dependency claim or, in some cases, only up to one year before you submitted your dependency claim.

To add or remove dependents from your VA Compensation Claim, contact the Clinton County Veterans Service Office at (937) 382-3233 or submit VA Form 21-686c to your VA Regional Office.