

DO YOU NEED A NEXUS LETTER?



Use the evidence gap, not fear or marketing, to answer the question.

A privately obtained opinion can be valuable, but it is not required in every claim. Start by identifying what evidence already establishes the medical link and what VA actually disputed.

IS SERVICE CONNECTION ALREADY ESTABLISHED FOR THIS CONDITION?

If yes, the dispute may concern rating or effective date rather than nexus.

NO

DOES A PRESUMPTION OR ACCEPTED CONTINUITY PATHWAY ESTABLISH THE LINK?

Confirm that every eligibility element is satisfied. A presumption does not eliminate the need for a current disability.

NO

IS THERE ALREADY A FAVORABLE, ADEQUATE MEDICAL OPINION?

Review whether it addresses the correct facts, direction, and theory.

NO

HAS VA DISPUTED OR LEFT UNANSWERED THE MEDICAL CONNECTION?

Read the decision, examination, and evidence list. Identify the exact missing or unfavorable link.

YES

A NEW OPINION MAY HELP

Use a qualified provider who can address the evidence gap and explain the medical reasoning.

NO

ANOTHER LETTER MAY ADD LITTLE

If the real problem is no diagnosis, no qualifying event, credibility, rating evidence, or a procedural issue, fix that problem first.

COMMON SITUATIONS

WHEN AN OPINION IS OFTEN USEFUL

DIRECT CLAIM

Current disability is established, but the link to an in-service event, injury, exposure, or symptom history is medically disputed.

SECONDARY CLAIM

The claim needs a medical explanation connecting an established primary disability or its treatment to a separate diagnosis.

AGGRAVATION CLAIM

The evidence must explain an incremental increase in severity attributable to a service-connected condition.

NEGATIVE C&P OPINION

A private opinion can address factual errors, ignored evidence, missing theories, or inadequate reasoning in the VA opinion.

READ THE DENIAL BEFORE BUYING EVIDENCE

A nexus letter does not cure every defect. It cannot manufacture an in-service event, replace a required diagnosis, or automatically establish credibility.

DO NOT BUY EVIDENCE BLINDLY. Identify the disputed element first. Then decide whether a new medical opinion is the right evidence.

