

AID AND ATTENDANCE EXAM GUIDE

A standard C&P exam rates a condition. An aid and attendance review asks whether service-connected disability creates a regular need for personal help or supervision.

A&A VERSUS STANDARD C&P

SIDE-BY-SIDE

Factor	Standard C&P exam	A&A exam or review
Purpose	Establish or rate a service-connected condition	Determine whether regular personal assistance or supervision is needed
Key question	What is the diagnosis and severity?	Can the veteran safely manage daily life without help?
Focus	Symptoms, measurements, and rating criteria	Feeding, dressing, toileting, appliances, and hazard protection
Legal standard	38 CFR Part 4 rating schedule	38 CFR 3.352(a) functional factors
Typical result	Percentage disability rating	Grant or denial of SMC-L aid and attendance
Primary form	Condition-specific DBQ	VA Form 21-2680
Who decides	Rater applies the rating schedule	Rater compares documented function with 3.352(a)

WHAT STRENGTHENS THE RECORD

SPECIFICITY MATTERS

Task Name the exact activity the veteran cannot perform safely.	Frequency State how often assistance or supervision is required.
Cause Tie the limitation to service-connected disability.	Consequence Explain falls, burns, aspiration, confusion, or other risk without help.
Caregiver detail Describe who helps, what they do, and how long each task takes.	Clinical detail Use findings, treatment records, care plans, and a specific Form 21-2680.

WHAT 10,702 SMC-L ISSUES SHOW

TWO DIFFERENT DENOMINATORS

42.4% Share of all issues granted 4,538 grants out of 10,702 issues. The full denominator also includes 4,218 denials, 1,677 remands, and 269 other outcomes.	51.8% Granted of decided Grants divided only by grants plus denials. Remands and other outcomes are excluded from this rate.
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VA Form 21-2680 is evidence a veteran may submit. It is not itself a VA-ordered examination. A sufficiently documented record can support a decision without a separate A&A exam.