



## VA Staff Can Help Stop Public Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) Fraud

The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) seeks VBA employees' help in preventing public DBQ fraud. VBA staff and others helping veterans obtain benefits, such as veterans service organizations, play a key role in identifying and reporting fraud targeting VA and exploiting veterans. The OIG released a [September 2023 fraud alert](#) directing veterans to avoid individuals and entities not accredited by VA that attempt to obtain payment for assistance with getting DBQs completed by physicians and filing the initial related claim (often promising higher benefits or seeking excessive payments). VBA staff should be alert to and report when veterans say they are being charged high fees for help with completing DBQs or initial claim filing, or when public DBQs raise questions of authenticity or other red flags.



- Apparent alterations have been made to the DBQ, such as variations in fonts and sizes or signature tampering.
- Multiple DBQs use the same diagnosis and wording for different veterans on submitted paperwork.
- The veteran consulted a non-treating physician in person more than 100 miles away or in a different state.
- Veterans refuse to attend an in-person VA examination without providing a valid reason.
- Responses in the public DBQ suggest a substantial increase in the veteran's disability rating or a permanent and total disability evaluation, but there are no accompanying treatment records or supporting evidence.

*(Note: These signs warrant further scrutiny by VA personnel but may not, alone, indicate fraud.)*

### Take Action:

- Review the overall evidence of record and if a public DBQ appears suspicious, or the veteran refuses to report for a VA examination without good cause, consider giving less weight to the DBQ when evaluating the claimed disability.
- Search VA's [database](#) to examine whether the veteran used an accredited representative.
- Research suspicious public DBQs, including whether the provider's National Provider Identifier number matches publicly available information and their license number exists and is in good standing.
- Request additional medical evidence or order a VA examination, as needed.
- Alert a supervisor and report suspicious activity to the VA Benefits Hotline at 1-800-827-1000. Suspected crimes should be reported to the VA OIG by submitting an online complaint at [www.vaogig.gov/hotline/online-forms](http://www.vaogig.gov/hotline/online-forms).



- [VA OIG fraud tool kit](#)  
[www.vaogig.gov/crime-alerts-and-fraud-resources](http://www.vaogig.gov/crime-alerts-and-fraud-resources)
- [VA's fraud prevention website](#)  
[www.va.gov/VSAFE](http://www.va.gov/VSAFE)

**BE A  
VOICE FOR  
VETERANS**  
**REPORT WRONGDOING**

### SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

[vaogig.gov/hotline](http://vaogig.gov/hotline)

(800) 488-8244

VA Inspector General Hotline (53H)  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

### **SCAN HERE FOR VA OIG HOTLINE**

