



Department of Veterans Affairs

PO BOX 4444
JANESVILLE, WI 53547-4444

May 20, 2024

JOSEPH FILSTRUP
2588 SUMMERLAND WAY
ROSEVILLE, CA 95747-0000

In Reply Refer To:
File Number: 361528653
J E FILSTRUP

We made a decision on your VA benefits.

Dear Joseph Filstrup:

This letter will guide you through the information you should know and steps you may take now that VA has made a decision about your benefits.

We have included with this letter:

1. Explanation of Payment
2. Additional Benefits
3. Where to Send Your Correspondence
4. V A Form 20-0998
5. Fraud Prevention Attachment

Contact Information

Web: www.vets.gov
Phone: 1-800-827-1000
TDD: 711
To send question online:
visit <http://iris.custhelp.com/>

Social Media:

Twitter: @VAVetBenefits
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits

Your representative:

You appointed CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS as your accredited representative. They have also received a copy of this letter.
They can help you with any question you may have about your claim.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call Veteran Crisis Line at 988 and press 1.

Your Benefit Information

We granted your claim for additional dependency benefits because the following dependent(s) meet the criteria for establishing a relationship and you have at least a 30% disability compensation evaluation:

Type of Dependent	Name	Effective Date
Spouse	Rachelle Filstrup	Jun 1, 2024
Child	Jaxson Filstrup	Jun 1, 2024
Child	Mason Filstrup	Jun 1, 2024

- RACHELLE FILSTRUP has been added to your award effective Jun 1, 2024, because you submitted all the required information and meet the eligibility requirements for the dependency allowance (38 CFR 3.4, 38 CFR 3.50, 38 CFR 3.57, 38 CFR 3.204, 38 CFR 3.205, 38 CFR 3.216).

- JAXSON FILSTRUP has been added to your award effective Jun 1, 2024, because you submitted all the required information and meet the eligibility requirements for the dependency allowance (38 CFR 3.4, 38 CFR 3.57, 38 CFR 3.204, 38 CFR 3.209, 38 CFR 3.210, 38 CFR 3.216).

MASON FILSTRUP has been added to your award effective Jun 1, 2024, because you submitted all the required information and meet the eligibility requirements for the dependency allowance (38 CFR 3.4, 38 CFR 3.57, 38 CFR 3.204, 38 CFR 3.209, 38 CFR 3.210, 38 CFR 3.216).

- We will remove MASON FILSTRUP effective Feb 13, 2027 for the following reason: MASON FILSTRUP is over the age of 18 and not attending school (38 CFR 3.57, 38 CFR 3.213, 38 CFR 3.503).
- We will remove JAXSON FILSTRUP effective May 21, 2029 for the following reason: JAXSON FILSTRUP is over the age of 18 and not attending school (38 CFR 3.57, 38 CFR 3.213, 38 CFR 3.503).

Your Monthly Entitlement Amount Is Shown Below:

Monthly Entitlement Amount	Payment Start Date	Reason
\$755.28	Dec 1, 2023	Cost of Living Adjustment
\$940.28	Jun 1, 2024	Rachelle was added to your award * Jaxson was added to your award * Mason was added to your award *
\$899.28	Feb 13, 2027	Mason will turn 18 and be removed from your award *
\$838.28	May 21, 2029	Jaxson will turn 18 and be removed from your award *

* - indicates change(s) made to your award by today's decision(s).

We are currently paying you as a Veteran with 3 dependent(s). ***Let us know right away if there is any change in the status of your dependents.***

If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal number is 711.

See **Explanation of Payment** for more details about your payment.

You will receive a payment covering the initial amount due under this award, minus any withholdings, in approximately 15 days. Payment will then be made at the beginning of each month for the prior month. For example, benefits due for May are paid on or about June 1.

Your payment will be directed to the financial institution and account number that you specified. To confirm when your payment was deposited, please contact that financial institution

***If this account is no longer open,
please notify us immediately.***

Evidence Considered

In making our decision, we considered the following evidence:

- VA Form 21-686c, Application Request To Add And/Or Remove Dependents received on May 17, 2024.

What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision

If you do not agree with our decision, you have one year from the date of this letter to select a review option in order to protect your initial filing date for effective date purposes. You must file your request on the required application form for the review option desired. The table below represents the review options and their respective required application form.

Review Option	Required Application Form
Supplemental Claim	VA Form 20-0995, <i>Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim</i>
Higher-Level Review	VA Form 20-0996, <i>Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review</i>
Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals	VA Form 10182, <i>Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)</i>

Please note: You may not request a higher-level review of a higher-level review decision issued by VA.

The enclosed VA Form 20-0998, *Your Rights To Seek Further Review Of Our Decision*, explains your options in greater detail and provides instructions on how to request further review. You may download a copy of any of the required application forms noted above by visiting www.va.gov/vaforms/ or you may contact us by telephone at 1-800-827-1000 and we will mail you any form you need.

You can visit www.va.gov/decision-reviews to learn more about how the disagreement process works.

If you would like to obtain or access evidence used in making this decision, please contact us by telephone, email, or letter as noted below letting us know what you would like to obtain. Some evidence may be obtained online by visiting www.va.gov

We sent a copy of this letter to your representative, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, whom you can also contact if you have questions or need assistance.

Thank you for your service,

Regional Office Director

Enclosure(s):

VA Form 20-0998

Where to Send Your Written Correspondence

cc: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Explanation of Payment

Your monthly entitlement amount includes payment for the following dependent(s):

Payment Start Date	Award Dependent(s)
Jun 1, 2024	Rachelle Filstrup, Jaxson Filstrup, Mason Filstrup
Feb 13, 2027	Rachelle Filstrup, Jaxson Filstrup
May 21, 2029	Rachelle Filstrup

Let us know right away if there is any change in the status of your dependent(s).

Please Take Action: What Things Affect Your Right to Payment?

Please notify VA **immediately** if there is a change in any condition affecting your right to continued payments. If you don't notify us of these changes immediately, you may have to return any overpayments. Those changes include:

Evidence received shows a change is warranted.
Military Pay or Worker's Compensation: Your payments may be affected by the following, which you must bring to our attention: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reentrance into active military or naval service.• Receipt of armed forces service retirement pay, unless your retirement pay has already been reduced because of award of disability compensation.• Receipt of benefits from the Office of Federal Employees Compensation.• Receipt of active duty or drill pay as a reservist or member of the National Guard.
Dependents: If you have a disability rating of 30 percent or more, you must advise VA of any change with your spouse or children.
Hospitalization: If your award includes Aid and Attendance benefits, we may reduce this additional allowance if you are admitted to a hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care at VA expense.
Incarceration: Benefits will be reduced if you are incarcerated in a federal, state, or local penal institution for more than 60 days for conviction of a felony.
Lack of Cooperation: We may stop monthly payments if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fail to submit evidence we requested• fail to attend a VA examination when requested, or• submit false or fraudulent evidence to VA, or cause false or fraudulent evidence to be submitted to VA.
Fraud/Lying to Government: The law provides severe penalties, which include fines, imprisonment, or both, for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment to which you are not entitled. We may verify information you submit through computer-matching programs with other agencies.

Additional Benefits

Education, Training, and Student Loans: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Education loans:</u> For more information, please call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or visit www.vets.gov/education.• <u>Veterans with student loans:</u> For more information, please call 1-888-303-7818 or visit www.disabilitydischarge.com/.
Medical Care and Treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Mental Health Counseling:</u> For more information, please visit www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/.• <u>Blind Rehabilitation:</u> For more information, please visit www.va.gov/blindrehab/.

Home Adaptations/Loans, Automobile Benefits, and Life Insurance:

- Loans: For more information, please visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/.
- Funding Fee Refund: If you paid a funding fee at the closing of a VA guaranteed home loan and your VA compensation award provides an effective rating date that was prior to your loan closing date, then you may be eligible for a funding fee refund. Please contact either your current mortgage servicer or a VA Regional Loan Center at (877) 827-3702 to begin the refund process.

Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange:

- Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange: For more information, please visit www.ebenefits.va.gov to locate your Regional Benefit Office, please visit www.vets.gov/facility-locator/.

Where to Send Your Correspondence

Documents may be submitted by mail, in person at VA regional office or electronically. However, VA recommends submitting correspondence electronically as this is the fastest method of receipt.

VA provides several tools to assist in electronic submission. To learn more about how to submit documents and claims electronically, visit www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence/. You can also go directly to AccessVA (<https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspselectfor=quicksubmit>) to digitally upload any correspondence using QuickSubmit.

By visiting www.va.gov you can also check your claim status and learn about other VA benefits.

If you need assistance, you can find a local, accredited representative at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/>.

If you prefer to mail your correspondence, please use the related mailing address below:

Compensation Benefits	Pension & Survivors Benefits
Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 531-7818	Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Intake Center P.O. Box 5365 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 655-1604
Board of Veterans' Appeals	Fiduciary
Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals P.O. Box 27063 Washington, DC 20038 Toll Free Fax: (844) 678-8979	Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Intake Center P.O. Box 5211 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (888) 581-6826

These addresses serve **all United States and foreign locations.**

Veteran Crisis Line Dial 988 then Press 1.

You can also send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support
24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

For more information, visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

Fraud Prevention: Protect Your Benefits

Please contact the VA **immediately** at 1-800-827-1000 if you suspect your information is compromised.

- You receive correspondence from VA concerning a claim, and you don't remember filing a claim contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000.
- You receive correspondence requesting a processing fee prior to releasing benefit payments contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000.
- VA may check in with you by phone, email, or text message. The VA will **never ask for personal information via email**. This includes verification of your SSN, address, and/or bank information. If you are unsure about any call, email, or text, confirm details directly with the VA.
- VA **does not threaten** claimants with jail or lawsuits.
- Be cautious of telephone numbers on caller ID. Scammers may change the telephone number (spoofing) to make a call appear to come from a different person or place.
- When in doubt, hang up and call VA directly at 1-800-827-1000, or call your Power of Attorney representative (DAV, VFW, etc.).
- **Do not ignore emails or letters** from the VA notifying you of an update to direct deposit or eBenefits account information. If you don't remember making changes, it could be the first sign your information was compromised.
- Use secure, unique passwords, and two factor identification where available. To establish a more secure logon for Vets.gov and ebenefits.va.gov with two factor identification create an account via ID.me at <https://api.id.me/en/registration/new>
- Monitor your accounts regularly, respond to fraud alerts and report unauthorized transactions promptly.
- To learn more about protecting yourself from fraud, and how to report it visit <https://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/default.asp>, or go to VA.gov and search "Office of Inspector General".
- For more details on how to avoid scams go to <https://www.fcc.gov/veteran-targeted-benefits-scams>
- Download free financial scam awareness resources at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/helping-prevent-scam-targeted-veterans/>
- Get up-to-date information on fraud and scams from the Federal Trade Commission <https://public.tableau.com/profile/federal.trade.commission>