

# Veterans Corner

## Secondary Service Connection

This type of service connection occurs when any disability or injury you have is the result of another service-connected disability or injury. It can occur when a service-connected condition causes a new disability or merely makes a pre-existing or non-service connected disability worse. If a disability has been service-connected and that disability directly or indirectly causes another disability, the new disability can be service-connected as secondary to the primary service-connected disability.

The new disability will be treated as if it were a result of the veteran's military service and will be evaluated for a separate disability compensation rating. If a disability that existed prior to a service-connected disability has been aggravated by a service-connected disability, the pre-existing disability may be service-connected and assigned a rating that reflects the extent to which that disability has increased in severity due to the service-connected disability.

You will not succeed in this type of claim without sufficient medical evidence of the link, or nexus, between the service-connected disability and the medical condition that the Veteran is attempting to characterize as being caused by the service-connected disability. The standard is to produce sufficient medical evidence to show that it is as likely as not that the second condition was caused or aggravated by the first condition. To establish this to the satisfaction of the VA, you will most certainly need at least one medical expert opinion. Our office can assist you with this type of claim.

Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office website at [www.countyofkings.com](http://www.countyofkings.com).

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 582-3211, ext. 2669; or e-mail [joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us).