What is a “Claim Shark”?  
- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to “assist” or “consult” veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!  
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren’t required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.  
- Like a “Loan Shark,” once you’re in, you can’t get out, and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

Some of their predatory practices are:
- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.  
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.  
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran’s personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.  
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.  
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Among the Claim Sharks are …
- Trajector Medical  
- Patriot Angels  
- Veteran Benefits Guide  
- Veteran Care Services  
- Veterans Guardian  
- VetComm  
- VA Claims Academy  
- Vet Assist  
- Telemedica

Veterans can protect themselves by:
- Always working with VA accredited representatives.  
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.  
- Not signing contracts.  
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.  
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.  
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

Who is NOT a Claim Shark?  
- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW  
- VA accredited claims agents  
- VA accredited attorneys  
- Attorneys assisting with Camp LeJeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive fees