



Dear Pilot,

I would like to make you aware of two additions to the flight physical application (FAA Form 8500-8). There is a new question (#18 Y) and a change to #18 V.

Question #18Y asks you about "Medical Disability Benefits." This is in response to a situation that arose recently where pilots were obtaining Social Security disability benefits for conditions that would have been medically disqualifying for FAA certification, yet they purposefully withheld this information from the FAA.

Following an investigation, Congress required that the FAA add this question to the Medical History portion of the FAA flight physical examination.

For more information, please refer to:

<http://www.oig.dot.gov/StreamFile?file=/data/pdfdocs/opsafepilot.pdf>

While many of you have had or are currently collecting some sort of medical disability payments, particularly if awarded through the Veteran's Administration upon retirement from the military, please do not be alarmed. The FAA is really only interested in learning about pilots who claim potentially disqualifying medical disabilities but do not disclose these medical conditions to the FAA. For the most part, the medical conditions (especially in reference to the VA) will not impact your FAA medical certification in any way. You are, however, required to disclose them, and we, as AME's, are required to explain them as part of our physical assessment. Please understand that it is important that you answer this question honestly. All of us AME's at Aviation Medical Services want to help you if you have any concerns regarding this question. In order to advocate for you, we may need to ask you to provide your VA disability evaluation records.

Most pilots will not have any aeromedical problems associated with VA benefits, as many of these are entirely unrelated to any medical conditions that the FAA deems important with regard to aviation safety. However, you may be somewhat surprised to learn that certain conditions that you did not think you needed to report before could require further documentation. We are more than happy to sort out any potential problems and work with you to keep you in good standing with the FAA. Unless you have been willfully withholding medical issues from the FAA, you should not encounter any difficulties.

Question #18v pertains to driving while under the influence. In the past, the question only asked about convictions, but now also asks about any arrests. Please read carefully!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Petra Illig", written in a cursive style.

Petra Illig