

Buddy Statement Prep Checklist

Help a witness describe what they personally observed in their own truthful words.

Choose the witness

- Write the witness name, relationship, and how long they have known the veteran.
- Confirm what the witness personally observed rather than what they heard secondhand.
- Pick the condition, event, symptoms, or daily impact the witness can speak to.
- Confirm the witness is willing to review and correct any draft before use.

Prompt specific observations

- Ask about dates or timeframes, frequency, visible symptoms, limitations, and changes over time.
- Ask for concrete examples: work, sleep, mobility, mood, family life, appointments, or flare-ups.
- Avoid telling the witness what conclusion to reach.
- Keep medical opinions out unless the witness is qualified and writing in that role.

Review before use

- Use VA Form 21-10210 or current VA guidance when appropriate.
- Make sure the final statement is accurate and in the witness voice.
- Do not sign for the witness or invent details.
- Keep a copy with related records, personal statements, and claim notes.

Educational prep checklist only. ValorAI is not VA, a VSO, an attorney, an accredited claims agent, or a medical provider. This is not legal or medical advice and does not guarantee benefits. Use official VA channels or accredited help when you need filing or representation support.