

## **THE FIVE TYPES OF SERVICE CONNECTION**

1. **Direct Service Connection** – Show a “direct causative link” between the current disability and something that occurred during the period of service (ie, injury during service causes current disability).
2. **Aggravation of Preexisting Condition** – Show that a condition that preexisted service worsened during service.
  - Example – Veteran’s trick knee condition during service worsens because of duties he is required to perform
  - Veteran may recover only the degree to which the disability worsens (ex, if initially 10% disabled and 20% disabled after service, recovers 10%)
3. **Presumptive Disability** – Show the existence of a condition that did not show up during service, but is presumed to have started or be connected to something that happened during service by virtue of a statute or VA regulation. Under statute or regulation, some conditions are presumed to have been caused by service (e.g., Agent Orange), unless there is affirmative proof to the contrary.
4. **Secondary Service Connection** – Show that the disability is the result of a primary medical condition that is connected to service.
  - Example – Veteran who develops tuberculosis during WWII service is treated with medication that causes hearing loss. The hearing loss would be considered a secondary condition.
  - Requires medical evidence establishing that the secondary condition was caused or aggravated by the primary condition.
5. **Injury caused by VA** – Show that the disability or injury is a consequence of an injury caused by VA health care, VA training and rehabilitation services, or by participation in a VA compensated work therapy program.