

It Takes A Village

Serving Older Veterans & Military Families



Department of
Veterans' Services



Who Is A Veteran?

“A person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.”

38 U.S.C. 101(2)



VA Disability Compensation

***“A medical condition
that was at least as
likely as not caused or
worsened by military
service.”***

38 U.S.C. 1110

NO TIME LIMIT TO APPLY!

NO INCOME CAP!



VA Disability Compensation

Four Main Legal Theories Of Eligibility:

Direct

Secondary

Aggravation

Presumptive



VA Pension

***For “Wartime Veterans”
with limited income,
limited assets and a
permanent & total
disability***

38 U.S.C. 1510

NO TIME LIMIT TO APPLY!

**NO REQUIREMENT OF AN INJURY
RELATED TO MILITARY SERVICE!**



VA Pension

**** Wartime Era Service IS
NOT The Same As
Combat Service ****

**** Unreimbursed Medical
Expenses Can Reduce
Countable Income ****

**** Certain Assets Are Not
Counted By VA ****



Housebound Status

Veteran meets all of the
basic pension
requirements . . .

PLUS

*Medically unable to leave
their residence on a
frequent basis.*



Aid & Attendance

Veteran meets all of the
basic pension
requirements . . .

PLUS

*Requires consistent
assistance with two or
more activities of daily
living.*



VA Healthcare

Two Main Legal Theories Of Eligibility:

(1) Length of Military Service:

24 continuous months

(2) Injury Or Illness In Service That Prevented Veteran From Meeting Length Of Service Requirement



VA Healthcare

Costs Of Care

**** Depends On VA
Priority Group ****

**** Free for service-
connected conditions. ****

**** Free for all conditions,
even non-service-
related, if total disability
rating is 50%+ ****



VA Healthcare

VA vs. Medicare?

**** VA health coverage is generally limited to VA medical facilities ****

**** VA & Medicare do not coordinate with each other ****

**** Medicare can pay if VA pays a claim partially. ****



Caregiver Programs

**** Veteran must have a disability rating of 70%+ ****

**** Veteran must need care with at least one activity of daily living full-time. ****

**** Caregiver must be pre-approved by VA. ****

**** VA offers stipend, respite care, health care options. ****



Stopping Scams

- ** Older Veterans (and their families) are frequent targets of scams **
- ** No Veteran should EVER be charged a fee for an initial claim! **
- ** GUARD VA Benefits Act: New York State statute empowering Attorney General to prosecute. **



“Sad is the nation that has no heroes.
Sadder still is the nation that has
heroes and forgets about them.”

– **Speaker Unknown. Meaning Eternal.**

***This advocacy is how we never
forget.***

Thank You For Your Service

Q & A



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