

DISABILITY PENSION AWARD ATTACHMENT

Information concerning Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal, State or local benefits may be obtained from your nearest VA office or any national service organization representative. You may call VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000 (Hearing Impaired TDD line 1-800-829-4833) or contact VA by Internet at <https://iris.va.gov>.

WHEN IS YOUR VA CHECK DELIVERED?

A check covering the initial amount due under this award will be mailed within 15 days. Thereafter, checks will be delivered at the beginning of each month for the prior month.

HOW CAN YOU RECEIVE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS?

You may be entitled to additional benefits for your unmarried children if the children are under age 18 or under 23 if attending an approved school, or if, prior to age 18, the child has become permanently incapable of self-support because of mental or physical defect. You may contact VA as shown above for information on applying for this benefit.

HOW CAN YOU RECEIVE AID AND ATTENDANCE OR HOUSEBOUND BENEFITS?

VA may pay a higher rate of pension to a veteran who is blind, a patient in a nursing home, otherwise needs regular aid and attendance, or who is permanently confined to his or her home because of a disability. You may contact VA as shown above for information on applying for this benefit.

HOW CAN YOU RECEIVE HOSPITALIZATION AND OUTPATIENT TREATMENT?

Veterans who are entitled to pension and/or special monthly pension (aid and attendance or housebound benefits) as determined by the Veterans Benefits Administration are eligible for medical care through the VA health care system. If you are interested in obtaining VA medical care, you may contact your nearest VA health care facility or the VA Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-8387.

HOW CAN CERTAIN EXPENSES INCREASE YOUR RATE OF IMPROVED PENSION?

Family medical expenses and educational or vocational rehabilitation expenses actually paid by you may be used to increase your rate of pension. Family medical expenses are amounts paid by you for medical expenses for yourself and relatives you are under an obligation to support, including premiums paid for health insurance. VA will deduct the amount you paid for medical expenses from your countable income if the expenses qualify for exclusion under the formula provided by law. Educational or vocational rehabilitation expenses are amounts paid for courses of education, including tuition, fees, and materials, and may be deducted from the income of a veteran or the earned income of a child, if the child is pursuing a course of postsecondary education or vocational rehabilitation or training. Keep track of the unreimbursed amounts you pay. Normally these expenses are reported at the end of the year with an Eligibility Verification Report. Family maintenance (hardship) expenses may also be used to increase your rate of pension. VA can exclude all or part of your dependent child's income if it is not reasonably available to you or if it would cause hardship to consider this income in determining your rate of pension. If VA is not currently excluding your children's income and you feel that it should be, contact the nearest VA office and complete VA Form 21-0571, *Application for Exclusion of Children's Income*.

HOW CAN YOU RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE?

If you are paying premiums of Government life insurance (GI insurance) and are unable to work, you may be entitled to certain benefits as provided in your policy. For complete information about GI Insurance, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs Insurance Center at 1-800-669-8477 or visit our website at <http://www.insurance.va.gov>.

ARE YOUR BENEFITS EXEMPT FROM CLAIMS OF CREDITORS?

VA pension payments are exempt from claims of creditors. With certain exceptions, the payments are not assignable and are not subject to attachment, levy, or seizure except as to claims of the United States.

HOW DO YOU REPORT A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please notify this office immediately of any change of address.

WHAT CONDITIONS AFFECT RIGHT TO PAYMENTS?

1. Your rate of pension depends upon the amount of family income and the number of dependents. Your benefits may be affected by any changes in the amount of family income and marital or dependency status of you or your dependents.
 - a. Change in family income and net worth: You are required to report the total amounts and sources of all income and net worth for you and your dependents for whom you have been awarded benefits. Some income is not countable. If you report such income, VA will exclude it when computing your income for VA purposes. Benefit rates and income limits change frequently; however, you can find out what the current income limitations and rates of benefits are by contacting VA as shown above.
 - b. Change in marital or dependency status. You or your survivors must notify us of any change in marital or dependency status or upon death. Examples of changes in marital or dependency status include the death of a dependent, the marriage of you or your dependent child, and discontinuance of a child's school attendance.
2. Your benefits may be reduced as shown below if you have no dependents and are furnished hospital, VA domiciliary or nursing home care at government expense. If you are receiving the aid and attendance allowance, your rate may also be reduced to the housebound rate as of the first day of the second calendar month following the month of admission. Benefits at the full rate may be resumed the date of discharge.

Veterans receiving Old Law Pension (pension awarded under the law in effect prior to July 1, 1960): If you have no dependents and are furnished hospital, VA domiciliary or nursing home care at government expense for six months or more, your pension may be reduced to \$30.00 or half of the monthly amount payable, whichever is greater, as of the first day of the seventh calendar month following the month of admission. We will pay you the withheld amount after an approved discharge by the institution authorities. If the discharge is for disciplinary reasons or against medical advice, the withheld amount will not be paid for six months from the date of discharge. If you are readmitted within six months of a prior period of such care and the prior discharge was not approved, the new period of care is considered a continuation of the previous period. Benefits will be reduced the first day of the seventh calendar month following the prior admission or the date of readmission, whichever is the later date.

Veterans receiving Section 306 Pension (pension awarded under laws in effect from July 1, 1960, and prior to January 1, 1979): If you have no dependents and are furnished hospital, VA domiciliary or nursing home care at government expense, your rate of pension may not exceed \$50.00 as of the first day of the third calendar month following the month of admission. If you are readmitted for such care within six months of a prior period of care that lasted two or more full calendar months, the rate of pension may not exceed \$50.00 as of the date of readmission.

Veterans receiving Improved Pension (pension awarded under laws in effect from January 1, 1979): If you have no dependents and are furnished VA domiciliary or nursing home care at government expense, your rate of pension may not exceed \$90.00 as of the first day of the fourth calendar month following the month of admission. If you are readmitted for such care within six months of the prior period of care, your rate of pension may not exceed \$90.00 as of the first day of the month following readmission.
3. If your award includes aid and attendance benefits based on nursing home patient status, you must immediately notify us when you are no longer a nursing home patient.
4. Your benefits will be discontinued effective the 61st day of incarceration in a Federal, State or local penal institution following conviction for a felony or misdemeanor. Your spouse or dependent children may be entitled to benefits at the death pension rate from the date your benefits are discontinued if a claim is received within one year after we notify you of discontinuance of benefits. Any payments made to your spouse or child will continue until we receive notice that the incarceration has ended.
5. Monthly payments of your award may be stopped if you fail to furnish evidence as requested or if you furnish VA, or cause to be furnished, any false or fraudulent evidence.
6. Information submitted, including income information, is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.
7. The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment to which you are not entitled.

IMPORTANT

Notify us immediately if there is a change in any condition affecting your right to continued payments. Failure to notify us of these changes immediately will result in an overpayment which is subject to recovery.

FEES FOR CLAIMS: Section 5904, Title 38, United States Code (codified in § 14.636, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations) contains provisions regarding fees that may be charged, allowed, or paid for services provided by a VA-accredited attorney or agent in connection with a proceeding before the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to a claim for benefits under laws administered by the Department. Generally, a VA-accredited attorney or agent may charge you a fee for assisting in seeking further review of a claim for VA benefits only after VA has issued an initial decision on the claim and the attorney or agent has complied with the applicable power-of-attorney and the fee agreement requirements.