

# SURVIVORS PENSION BENEFITS 2021

Our staff of VA trained and accredited County Veteran Service Officers can answer your questions, assist in completing the necessary VA forms, and act as the claimant's advocate through the claim process.

**ALL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED  
FREE OF CHARGE.**

## LAKE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

An Office of Lake County Government  
Located in Building C of the Lake County  
Administration Center

105 Main St.,  
Painesville, OH 44077  
(440) 350-2904/2567  
Fax (440) 350-5980



If you are the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran with low income or overwhelmed with the high cost of medical care, such as paying for assisted living facilities, home care aids, adult daycare, or skilled nursing, the VA Survivors benefit could be the solution to help pay for this care or other needs.

### There are three levels of VA Survivors Pensions:

**Basic Pension**—for surviving spouses with low income

**Aid & Attendance (A&A)** – for surviving spouses that require assistance with their activities of daily living

**Housebound** – for surviving spouses with a permanent disability that prevents them from leaving their home

### You may be eligible if:

- the deceased veteran was discharged from military service under other than dishonorable conditions; **AND**
- the veteran served 90 days of active duty or more with at least 1 day during a war time period\*; **AND**
- your annual household income and net worth\*\* meet certain limits set by law.

While an un-remarried spouse is eligible at any age, a child of a deceased wartime Veteran must be: under 18, **OR** under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, **OR** permanently incapable of self-support due to a disability before age 18.

\*To find the dates of service considered as war time periods, visit: [www.va.gov/pension/wartime-period](http://www.va.gov/pension/wartime-period).

Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980 generally must have served at least 24 months of active duty **OR** the full period for which called or ordered to active duty.

| PENSION RATES<br>effective 12/1/2020        | MAXIMUM MONTHLY<br>BENEFIT | MAXIMUM HOUSEHOLD<br>ANNUAL INCOME*** |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Basic Pension with no dependents            | \$778.00                   | \$9,344.00                            |
| Basic Pension with 1 dependent              | \$1,019.00                 | \$12,229.00                           |
| With Housebound benefits with no dependents | \$951.00                   | \$11,420.00                           |
| With Housebound benefits with one dependent | \$1,191.00                 | \$14,300.00                           |
| With Aid and Attendance with no dependents  | \$1,244.00                 | \$14,934.00                           |
| With Aid and Attendance with one dependent  | \$1,484.00                 | \$17,815.00                           |
| In Nursing Home receiving Medicaid benefits | \$90.00                    | N/A                                   |

**\*\*\* OUT OF POCKET MEDICAL EXPENSES PAID BY THE HOUSEHOLD ARE USED TO REDUCE THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME.**

Please see the examples on page 2.

### \*\*HOUSEHOLD NET WORTH LIMIT MUST BE UNDER \$130,773.00

(as of 12/01/2020 –changes annually) Net worth is the sum of household assets and annual income. It does NOT include a primary residence and lot under 2 acres, automobile, or personal effects. As of 10/18/2018 the VA instituted a “look back” period of 3 years. Any assets transferred to reduce net worth after this date must be reported and may prohibit qualifying for the pension benefit for up to 5 years.

## DETERMINING THE MONTHLY BENEFIT AMOUNT:

The amount of the possible benefit can be determined by totaling the amount of monthly GROSS household income and then subtracting the monthly total of continuing out of pocket medical expenses which equals the countable income. The countable income is then subtracted from the maximum monthly income limit for the veteran's situation. (See the chart on page 1.) The examples below can help you to understand how the VA calculates the amount. All amounts are monthly figures.

The Pension Worksheet on page 3 can be used to determine the possible benefit.

### 1. PENSION EXAMPLE:

The surviving spouse is 81 years old. Her monthly income is \$800 (GROSS) in Social Security (SS) benefits. She is still able to live alone in her home which is paid off. She has no savings or any other assets. \$148.50 is withheld from her SS benefits for Medicare and she pays \$75.00 per month for a supplemental health insurance.

| Medical Expenses:     |                 | Income:                 |                 | Possible Benefit:     |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Medicare Part B       | \$ 148.50       | Social Security         | \$800.00        | VA Income Limit       | \$778.00        |
| Health insurance      | <u>75.00</u>    | Less med expenses       | <u>223.50</u>   | Less countable income | <u>576.50</u>   |
| <b>Total med exps</b> | <b>\$223.50</b> | <b>Countable income</b> | <b>\$576.50</b> | <b>VA benefit</b>     | <b>\$201.50</b> |

### 2. PENSION WITH AID AND ATTENDANCE EXAMPLE:

Surviving spouse is 70 years old. His monthly income consists of \$825.00 (GROSS) in Railroad Retirement (RR) and \$1,370.00 in State Teachers Retirement. His doctor stated that he could no longer live alone, and it was a medical necessity to move into an assisted living facility but did not need full nursing home care. The monthly cost of the assisted living facility is \$3,500 per month, \$148.50 is withheld from his RR for Medicare, and he pays \$100 for supplemental health insurance.

| Medical Expenses:     |                   | Income:                 |                 | Possible Benefit:                           |            |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---|------------|
| Assisted Living       | \$3,500.00        | RR                      | \$ 825.00       | VA Income Limit                             | \$1,244.00 |
| Medicare Part B       | 148.50            | State Teachers          | <u>1,370.00</u> | Because the claimant's income is            |            |
| Health insurance      | <u>100.00</u>     | Total income            | \$2,195.00      | less than his medical expense, his          |            |
| <b>Total med exps</b> | <b>\$3,748.50</b> | Less med exps           | <u>3,748.50</u> | countable income is zero. He would          |            |
|                       |                   | <b>Countable income</b> | <b>0.00</b>     | receive the full benefit <b>\$1,244.00.</b> |            |

### 3. NURSING HOME WITH MEDICAID EXAMPLE:

The widow in example #1 becomes ill and the doctors determine she must be placed into a nursing home. Medicaid begins to pay the cost of her care and she receives just a small portion of her Social Security benefit. The VA will reduce her monthly pension benefit to **\$90 per month** which can be used for her personal needs such as clothing, haircuts, etc.

**VA PENSION WORKSHEET** \* This worksheet helps to determine only a **POSSIBLE** VA benefit amount.

All claims for benefits must be processed through the VA to determine eligibility and benefit amount.  
PLEASE PROVIDE STATEMENTS DOCUMENTING ALL AMOUNTS.

| GROSS MONTHLY INCOME                   | SURVIVOR | SPOUSE | OTHER DEPENDENT | SOURCE | TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME(A) |
|--|----------|--------|-----------------|--------|---------------------------|
| SOCIAL SECURITY                        |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| US CIVIL SERVICE                       |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| RAILROAD RETIREMENT                    |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| BLACK LUNG BENS                        |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| ANY RETIREMENT OR PENSIONS             |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| SSI/PUBLIC ASSISTANCE                  |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| LONG TERM CARE INSUR BENEFITS RECEIVED |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| WAGES FROM EMPLOYMENT                  |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| OTHER (PROVIDE SOURCE)                 |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| OTHER (PROVIDE SOURCE)                 |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| OTHER (PROVIDE SOURCE)                 |          |        |                 |        |                           |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                          |          |        | (A)             |        |                           |

LESS TOTAL HOUSEHOLD MEDICAL EXPENSES (B)

EQUALS COUNTABLE INCOME ( C )

If household income is less than medical expenses, the countable income is "0"

(A-B=C)

**VA INCOME LIMIT for your situation**  
(from pg 1-i.e. survivor w/aid & attendance is \$1244.00)

LESS COUNTABLE INCOME( C )

(from above)

EQUALS POSSIBLE \* VA BENEFIT

| TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME             |          |        |                 | TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------|------------------------|
| CONTINUING **                      | SURVIVOR | SPOUSE | OTHER DEPENDENT | SOURCE                 |
| MONTHLY MED EXPENSES               |          |        |                 |                        |
| MEDICARE PART B                    |          |        |                 |                        |
| HEALTH INSUR PREMIUM               |          |        |                 |                        |
| HEALTH INSUR PREMIUM               |          |        |                 |                        |
| RX INSUR PREMIUM                   |          |        |                 |                        |
| NURSING HOME                       |          |        |                 |                        |
| ASSISTED LIVING                    |          |        |                 |                        |
| HOME HEALTH AIDES                  |          |        |                 |                        |
| LONG TERM CARE INSUR PREMIUMS PAID |          |        |                 |                        |
| OTHER (PROVIDE TYPE)               |          |        |                 |                        |
| OTHER (PROVIDE TYPE)               |          |        |                 |                        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                      |          |        |                 |                        |

LIST BALANCES OF ALL BANK ACCOUNTS, IRAS, MUTUAL FUNDS, STOCKS, TRUSTS, ETC. \*\*

ACCOUNT CURRENT BALANCES

TOTAL NET WORTH

\*\*TOTAL NET WORTH MUST BE UNDER \$130,773

TOTAL HOUSEHOLD MEDICAL EXPENSES

## CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE VA FORMS FOR PENSION:

The average processing time for VA **Survivors** Pension is an average of 6 to 9 months. Therefore, it is best to submit all supporting documentation with the original claim forms to expedite the process as much as possible.

**FAILURE TO PROVIDE ALL DOCUMENTATION WILL DELAY THE FILING OF THE CLAIM AND A DECISION FROM THE VA.**

\_\_\_ **DD 214/Military Separation Record.** We can assist with obtaining this document if necessary or you can request it FREE OF CHARGE on-line at: [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records).

\_\_\_ **Social Security numbers for claimant, veteran, and dependents.** Please also provide VA Claim number if available.

\_\_\_ **Marriage Licenses and Death Certificates.**

\_\_\_ **Proof of all income.** Please provide statements showing the **GROSS amounts** (before any deductions such as Medicare, health insurance, etc.) of all monthly income including Social Security, pensions, income from investments, rental or business income, long term care insurance benefits received, etc.

\_\_\_ **Current statements for all assets.** All checking, savings accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, trusts, annuities, long term care insurance, savings bonds, etc.

\_\_\_ **Direct deposit information and/or deposit slip.**

\_\_\_ **Documentation regarding any transfer of assets you or your dependents have made since 10/18/2018.** Assets transfers include gifts, selling them, purchasing an annuity, or using them to establish a trust.

\_\_\_ **Amounts of CONTINUING monthly medical expenses.** When initially filing for the VA Pension benefit, we will report household "out of pocket" medical expenses which are the same every month. These include:

- Medicare deductions withheld from Social Security or other benefits for Parts B, C, or D.
- Supplemental insurance premiums for health, dental, prescriptions, vision plans, etc. (sometimes withheld from pension/retirement benefits)
- Prescriptions/over the counter medications/medical supplies (i.e. incontinence supplies) which are the same every month
- Long term care insurance premiums
- Final funeral/burial expenses paid by the veteran for spouse in the last year
- Amounts paid for in home health care, adult day care, assisted living, and nursing home

\_\_\_ **Documentation from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) regarding Medicaid.**

\_\_\_ **Any Guardianship Appointments or Power of Attorneys.**

### **If the claimant is in a Nursing Home:**

\_\_\_ **VA Form 21-2680 included in this packet** (Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) Must be completed by a physician. If both the veteran and spouse require care, please have a form completed for each. **AND**

\_\_\_ **VA Form 21-0779 included in this packet** (Request for Nursing Home Information) Completed by Nursing Home

### **If the claimant is in an Assisted Living, Adult Day Care, or similar facility:**

\_\_\_ **VA Form 21-2680 included in this packet** (Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) Must be completed by a physician.

**AND** the **following 2 forms** completed by Assisted Living, etc.:

\_\_\_ **VA Form 21-534EZ, page 13 included in this packet** (Worksheet for an Assisted Living, etc.) **AND**

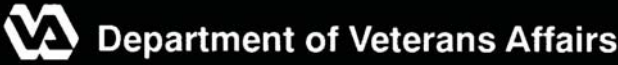
\_\_\_ **VA Form 21-4138 for Assisted Living or other Facility included in this packet.** (Must also be signed by claimant)

### **If the claimant receives medical care from an In-Home Care Attendant:**

\_\_\_ **VA Form 21-2680 included in this packet** (Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) Must be completed by a physician. If both the veteran and spouse require care, please have a form completed for each. **AND** the **following 2 forms** completed by In-Home Attendant:

\_\_\_ **VA Form 21-534EZ, page 14 included in this packet** (Worksheet for an In-Home Care, etc.) **AND**

\_\_\_ **VA Form 21-4138 for In-Home Care Attendant included in this packet.** (Must also be signed by claimant)



**VA DATE STAMP**  
 (DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

**EXAMINATION FOR HOUSEBOUND STATUS OR PERMANENT  
 NEED FOR REGULAR AID AND ATTENDANCE**

**IMPORTANT:** Please read Privacy Act and Respondent Burden information before completing the form.

**SECTION I: VETERAN'S IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION**

**NOTE:** You can *either* complete the form online or by hand. Please print the information requested in ink, neatly and legibly to help process the form.

1. VETERAN'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)

2. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER  
 -  -

3. VA FILE NUMBER (If applicable)

4. DATE OF BIRTH (MM-DD-YYYY)  
 -  -

5. VETERAN'S SERVICE NUMBER (If applicable)

6. SEX  
 MALE  
 FEMALE

7. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)  
 -  -

8. E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional)

9. PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS (Number and street or rural route, P. O. Box, City, State, ZIP Code and Country)

No. & Street

Apt./Unit Number  City

State/Province  Country  ZIP Code/Postal Code  -

**SECTION II: CLAIM INFORMATION**

10. CLAIMANT'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last) (Complete only if you are not the veteran)

11. CLAIMANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER  
 -  -

12. RELATIONSHIP OF CLAIMANT TO VETERAN  
 SPOUSE  SELF

13. CLAIMANT'S HOME ADDRESS

No. & Street

Apt./Unit Number  City

State/Province  Country  ZIP Code/Postal Code  -

14. BENEFIT YOU ARE APPLYING FOR (Choose One)

**Special Monthly Compensation (SMC)** - Veterans and surviving spouses or parents who are eligible to receive VA compensation due to a service-related disability or death and require aid and attendance of another person to perform personal functions required in everyday living such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting oneself from the hazards of the daily environment may be eligible for Special Monthly Compensation. A Veteran or a deceased Veteran's surviving spouse may also be eligible for Special Monthly Compensation based on being housebound (substantially confined to the immediate premises because of permanent disability). For a Veteran, the disability causing the need for aid and attendance or housebound status must be related to service. These benefits are paid in addition to monthly compensation. They are not paid without eligibility to compensation.

**Special Monthly Pension (SMP)** - Veterans and survivors who are eligible for Veteran's Pension and/or Survivors benefits and require the aid and attendance of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting him/her from the hazards of his/her daily environment, or are housebound (substantially confined to his/her immediate premises because of permanent disability), may be eligible for Special Monthly Pension (SMP). This benefit is an increased monthly amount paid to a Veteran or survivor who is eligible for Veterans Pension or Survivors benefits.

**SECTION III: INFORMATION OF EXAMINATION**

15. DATE OF EXAMINATION (MM-DD-YYYY)  
 -  -

16A. IS CLAIMANT HOSPITALIZED?  
 YES  NO (If "Yes," complete Items 16B and 16C)

16B. DATE ADMITTED (MM-DD-YYYY)  
 -  -

17A. NAME OF HOSPITAL

17B. ADDRESS OF HOSPITAL

PATIENT/VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO.  -  -

**NOTE: EXAMINER PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

The purpose of this examination is to record manifestations and findings pertinent to the question of whether the claimant is housebound (confined to the home or immediate premises) or in need of the regular aid and attendance of another person. The report should be in sufficient detail for the VA decision makers to determine the extent that disease or injury produces physical or mental impairment, that loss of coordination or enfeeblement affects the ability: to dress and undress; to feed him/herself; to attend to the wants of nature; or keep him/herself ordinarily clean and presentable. Findings should be recorded to show whether the claimant is blind or bedridden. Whether the claimant seeks housebound or aid and attendance benefits, the report should reflect how well he/she ambulates, where he/she goes, and what he/she is able to do during a typical day.

17C. COMPLETE DIAGNOSIS (Diagnosis needs to equate to the level of assistance described in questions 25 through 39)

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|                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 18A. AGE<br><input type="text"/> | 18B. WEIGHT<br>ACTUAL LBS. <input type="text"/> ESTIMATED LBS. <input type="text"/> | 18C. HEIGHT<br>FEET <input type="text"/> INCHES <input type="text"/> |
|----------------------------------|---|--|

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| 19. NUTRITION | 20. GAIT |
|---------------|----------|

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| 21. BLOOD PRESSURE<br><input type="text"/> | 22. PULSE RATE<br><input type="text"/> | 23. RESPIRATORY RATE<br><input type="text"/> | 24. WHAT DISABILITIES RESTRICT THE LISTED ACTIVITIES/FUNCTIONS? |
|--|--|--|---|

25. IF THE CLAIMANT IS CONFINED TO BED, INDICATE THE NUMBER OF HOURS IN BED  
 From 9 PM to 9 AM:  From 9 AM to 9 PM:

26. IS THE CLAIMANT ABLE TO FEED HIM/HERSELF? (Fill in Circle. If "No," provide explanation)

YES  NO

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

27. IS CLAIMANT ABLE TO PREPARE THEIR OWN MEALS? (Fill in Circle. If "No," provide explanation)

YES  NO

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

28. DOES THE CLAIMANT NEED ASSISTANCE IN BATHING AND TENDING TO OTHER HYGIENE NEEDS? (If "Yes," provide explanation)

YES  NO

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
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|---|-----------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 29A. IS THE CLAIMANT LEGALLY BLIND? (If "Yes," provide explanation)   | 29B. CORRECTED VISION |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO  | LEFT EYE              | RIGHT EYE |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|   |                       |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

30. DOES THE CLAIMANT REQUIRE NURSING HOME CARE? (If "Yes," provide explanation)

YES  NO

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

31. DOES THE CLAIMANT REQUIRE MEDICATION MANAGEMENT? (If "Yes," provide explanation)

YES  NO

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

32. IN YOUR JUDGMENT, DOES THE VETERAN/CLAIMANT HAVE THE MENTAL CAPACITY TO MANAGE HIS OR HER BENEFIT PAYMENTS, OR IS HE OR SHE ABLE TO DIRECT SOMEONE TO DO SO? (If "No," provide examples and rationale to support your conclusion)

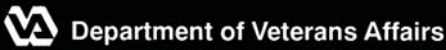
YES  NO

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
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**VA DATE STAMP**  
 (Do Not Write In This Space)

**REQUEST FOR NURSING HOME INFORMATION IN CONNECTION  
 WITH CLAIM FOR AID AND ATTENDANCE**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Before completing this form, read the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden. We use this form to determine eligibility in connection with a claim for aid and attendance. For more information, contact us at <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov>, or call us toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal relay number is 711. VA forms are available at [www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms). After completing the form, mail to: **Department of Veterans Affairs, Evidence Intake Center, P.O. Box 4444, Janesville, WI, 53547-4444.**

**SECTION I - VETERAN'S IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION**

**NOTE:** You may complete the form online or by hand. If completing by hand, print neatly and legibly in ink, and completely fill in each applicable circle to help expedite processing of the form.

1. VETERAN'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)

2. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER      3. VA FILE NUMBER      4. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)

**SECTION II - CLAIMANT'S IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION (Complete this section ONLY IF the claimant is NOT the veteran)**

5. CLAIMANT'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)

6. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER      7. VA FILE NUMBER (If applicable)      8. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)

**SECTION III - NURSING HOME INFORMATION**

9. NAME OF NURSING HOME

10. ADDRESS OF NURSING HOME (Number and street or rural route, P.O. Box, City, State, ZIP Code and Country)

No. & Street

Apt./Unit Number      City

State/Province      Country      ZIP Code/Postal Code

**SECTION IV - GENERAL INFORMATION (To be completed by a Nursing Home Official)**

**NOTE:** Your state's Medicaid program may use a different name.

11. DATE ADMITTED TO NURSING HOME (MM/DD/YYYY)      12. IS THE NURSING HOME A MEDICAID APPROVED FACILITY?

13. HAS THE PATIENT APPLIED FOR MEDICAID?      14A. IS THE PATIENT COVERED BY MEDICAID?      14B. DATE MEDICAID PLAN BEGAN (MM/DD/YYYY)

15. MONTHLY AMOUNT PATIENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OUT OF POCKET \$

16. I CERTIFY THAT THE CLAIMANT IS A PATIENT IN THIS FACILITY BECAUSE OF MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY AND IS RECEIVING: (Check one)

SKILLED NURSING CARE       INTERMEDIATE NURSING CARE

17. NURSING HOME OFFICIAL'S NAME (First and Last)

18. NURSING HOME OFFICIAL'S TITLE      19. NURSING HOME OFFICIAL'S OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

Enter International Phone Number (If applicable)

**SECTION V - CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE**

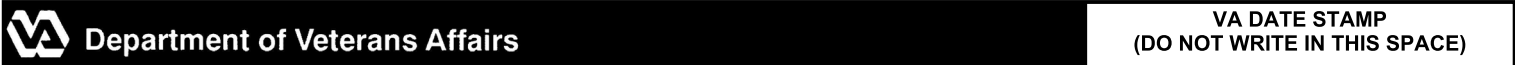
**I CERTIFY THAT** the statements on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

20. SIGNATURE OF NURSING HOME OFFICIAL (REQUIRED)      21. DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)

**PENALTY:** The law provides severe penalties (including fine and/or imprisonment) for willfully submitting any statement or evidence of a material fact you know to be false, or for fraudulent receipt of any document you are not entitled to.

**PRIVACY ACT NOTICE:** The VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations 1.526 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28 Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. While you are not required to respond, your cooperation in providing this relevant and necessary information will help us determine the claimant's maximum benefit entitlement under the law. Information that you furnish may be utilized in computer matching programs with other Federal or state agencies for the purpose of determining the claimant's eligibility to receive VA benefits, as well as to collect any amount owed to the United States by virtue of the claimant's participation in any benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** We need this information to determine eligibility for benefits and the proper rate of payment (38 U.S.C. 5503, 38 U.S.C. 1115 (1)(E)), 38 U.S.C. 1311(c), 38 U.S.C. 1315(h)). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 10 minutes to review the instructions, find the information and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). If you desire, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.



# STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden on Page 2 before completing the form. Complete as much of Section I as possible. The information requested will help process your claim for benefits. If you need any additional room, use the second page.

## SECTION I: VETERAN/BENEFICIARY'S IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

**NOTE:** You will either complete the form online or by hand. Please print the information request in ink, neatly, and legibly to help process the form.

1. VETERAN/BENEFICIARY'S NAME (*First, Middle Initial, Last*)

2. VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER  -  -

3. VA FILE NUMBER (*If applicable*)

4. VETERAN'S DATE OF BIRTH (*MM/DD/YYYY*)  
 Month  Day  Year

5. VETERAN'S SERVICE NUMBER (*If applicable*)

6. TELEPHONE NUMBER (*Include Area Code*)

7. E-MAIL ADDRESS (*Optional*)

8. MAILING ADDRESS (*Number and street or rural route, P.O. Box, City, State, ZIP Code and Country*)

No. & Street

Apt./Unit Number  City

State/Province  Country  ZIP Code/Postal Code  -

## SECTION II: REMARKS (*The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran/beneficiary.*)

The above-named person resides in \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the facility)

He/she resides in and receives: (circle yes or no for facility and care type)

- yes or no -Independent Living with no care services\*
- yes or no -Independent Living with care services provided and billed by the facility\*
- yes or no -Independent Living with care services provided by a third party but billed by the facility\*
- yes or no -Independent Living with care services provided and billed by a third party
- yes or no -Assisted Living Care (state-licensed)
- yes or no -Assisted Living Care (state-licensed) with higher level care such as memory care services
- yes or no -Other Care Facility\* please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mark Activities of Daily Living on page 2

Date he/she entered the facility/began to receive care \_\_\_\_\_

Amount he/she pays for facility care \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week  
 or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ day

(continue on page 2)

**SECTION II: REMARKS (Continued)**

*(The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran/beneficiary.)*

\*For independent living or other facilities as noted on page 1 please mark the ADLs provided. (state-licensed assisted living care and higher not required)

He/she is provided with the following ADLs:

- YES / NO Bathing/Showering
- YES / NO Standing/Sitting
- YES / NO Getting in/out of bed
- YES / NO Eating
- YES / NO Walking
- YES / NO Dressing/Undressing
- YES / NO Taking Medication
- YES / NO Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have completed this document and that it is accurate and true.

\_\_\_\_\_
Signature of facility official Date

\_\_\_\_\_
Printed name of official Title of official

\_\_\_\_\_
Address of facility Phone number/extension

The Veteran or widow must sign below to verify.

**SECTION III: DECLARATION OF INTENT**

**I CERTIFY THAT** the statements on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

|                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9. SIGNATURE ( <i>Sign in ink</i> ) | 10. DATE SIGNED ( <i>MM/DD/YYYY</i> ) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

**PENALTY:** The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false.

**PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION:** The VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA Programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required to obtain or retain benefits. VA uses your SSN to identify your claim file. Providing your SSN will help ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. Giving us your SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide your SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. The VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** We need this information to obtain evidence in support of your claim for benefits (38 U.S.C. 501(a) and (b)). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 15 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.

**WORKSHEET FOR AN ASSISTED LIVING, ADULT DAY CARE, OR A SIMILAR FACILITY**

**NOTE:** Only complete this worksheet if you are claiming expenses for an assisted living facility, adult day care or similar facility.

**IMPORTANT:** VA recognizes the following five activities as Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) for medical expense purposes:

- (1) Eating
- (2) Bathing/Showering
- (3) Dressing
- (4) Transferring (for example, from bed to chair)
- (5) Using the toilet

Custodial Care is regular -  
 • assistance with two or more ADLs, **or**  
 • supervision because a person with a mental disorder is unsafe if left alone due to the mental disorder.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Use this worksheet if you are claiming a disabled person's care in an assisted living facility, adult day care, or similar facility as unreimbursed medical expenses. Follow the steps below to determine whether VA may deduct all or some of your out-of-pocket payments to the facility.

**STEP 1.** Are the expenses you wish to claim due to the disabled person's treatment in a hospital, inpatient treatment center, nursing home, or VA approved medical foster home?  
 (If "NO," continue to Step 2)  
 YES  NO (If "YES," **all** payments to the facility qualify as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. You are finished completing this worksheet)

**STEP 2.** Do **all** of the following apply to the facility?  
 • The facility is licensed (if the State or Country requires it)  
 • The facility's staff (or the facility's contracted staff) provides the disabled person with health care or custodial care or both.  
 • If the facility is residential, it is staffed 24 hours per day with caregivers.  
 YES  NO (If "NO," payments to the facility **do not** qualify as medical expenses. You are finished completing this worksheet)

**STEP 3.** Are you (the claimant) the disabled person, a surviving spouse, or a Parents' DIC claimant?  
 YES  NO (If "NO," skip to Step 6)

**STEP 4.** Did you claim special monthly pension or special monthly DIC in Item 37?  
 YES  NO (If "NO," payments to this facility for meals and lodging **do not** qualify as medical expenses. **Only** claim amount you pay the facility for **health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider** in Items 45A thru 45F. Skip to Step 8)

**STEP 5.** If you answered "YES" in Step 2, you stated that the facility provides you with health care and/or custodial care. Is this the **primary reason** you live in the facility (or attend day care in the facility)?  
 (If "YES," all payments to this facility **may** qualify as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F **if** VA rates you as eligible for special monthly pension or special monthly DIC. Please report the amount you pay the facility for lodging and meals separate from the amount you pay the facility for **health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider** as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. Skip to Step 8)  
 (If "NO," payments to this facility for meals and lodging **do not** qualify as medical expenses. Please report separately in Items 45A thru 45F applicable amounts you pay the facility for: (1) **health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider**, and (2) **custodial care**. Skip to Step 8)  
 YES  NO

**STEP 6.** Does the disabled person require the health care services or custodial care that the facility provides to him or her because of the disabled person's mental or physical disability?  
 (If "YES," you must submit a statement from a physician or physician assistant that (1) the disabled person requires the health care services or custodial care that the facility provides to him or her because of mental or physical disability, and (2) describes the mental or physical disability)  
 YES  NO (If "NO," claim payments you pay this facility for **health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider** in Items 45A thru 45F. Skip to Step 8)

**STEP 7.** If you answered "YES" in Step 2, you stated that the facility provides the disabled person with health care and/or custodial care. Is this the **primary reason** the disabled person lives in the facility (or attends day care in the facility)?  
 (If "YES," claim all payments to this facility (to include meals and lodging) as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F)  
 YES  NO (If "NO," **only** claim payments you pay the facility for assistance with **health care and/or assistance with custodial care** as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. Payment to this facility for meals and lodging **do not** qualify)

**STEP 8. Facility Certification:** Please submit a current statement showing the fees the claimant pays to your facility and a breakdown of the care received.

I **CERTIFY** that the information stated within this WORKSHEET FOR AN ASSISTED LIVING, ADULT DAY CARE, OR SIMILAR FACILITY is accurate and reflects the current environment pertaining to \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name of person staying at your facility)  
 and his or her care at this facility \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name and address of facility)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name, Signature and Title of Person Certifying for the Facility) (Date Certified)





**VA DATE STAMP**  
 (DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

## STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden on Page 2 before completing the form. Complete as much of Section I as possible. The information requested will help process your claim for benefits. If you need any additional room, use the second page.

### SECTION I: VETERAN/BENEFICIARY'S IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

**NOTE:** You will *either* complete the form online or by hand. Please print the information request in ink, neatly, and legibly to help process the form.

1. VETERAN/BENEFICIARY'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|

2. VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

3. VA FILE NUMBER (If applicable)

4. VETERAN'S DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|

5. VETERAN'S SERVICE NUMBER (If applicable)

6. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)

7. E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional)

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|

8. MAILING ADDRESS (Number and street or rural route, P.O. Box, City, State, ZIP Code and Country)

|                  |         |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------|---------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| No. & Street     |         |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Apt./Unit Number | City    |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| State/Province   | Country | ZIP Code/Postal Code |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### SECTION II: REMARKS

*(The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran/beneficiary.)*

This statement satisfies the Department of Veteran Affairs requirement of Proof of Payment per MR-V.iii.1.G.5.b.

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, assist \_\_\_\_\_ beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (date) with the following ADL's (circle all that apply):

- YES / NO Bathing/Showering
- YES / NO Standing/Sitting
- YES / NO Getting in/out of bed
- YES / NO Eating
- YES / NO Walking
- YES / NO Dressing/Undressing
- YES / NO Taking Medication
- YES / NO Other (explain):

I/We, confirm that the amount paid is based on a rate of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per hr/wk/mo (circle one) for these services performed, above.

The total payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ are paid to me/we on a weekly/monthly (circle one) basis.

\*\*\*\*\*continued on page 2\*\*\*\*\*

□□□□ - □□□ - □□□□□□

**SECTION II: REMARKS (Continued)**

*(The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran/beneficiary.)*

\*\*\*\*\*continued from page 1\*\*\*\*\*

This statement certifies that I/We, are paid based on the above frequency and rate, beginning on the date above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Individual/Facility Performing Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Individual/Facility Performing Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Individual/Facility Performing Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number (w/ Area Code) of Individual/Facility Performing Services

The Veteran/Claimant has signed and dated the below Blocks 9 and 10 to certify agreement and accuracy of this Proof of Payment for the above Individual Performing Services.

-OR-

If the Veteran/Claimant is unable to sign, an Alternate Signer has signed and dated on behalf and attached is the 21-0972, Alternate Signer Certification.

**SECTION III: DECLARATION OF INTENT**

**I CERTIFY THAT** the statements on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

9. SIGNATURE (*Sign in ink*)

10. DATE SIGNED (*MM/DD/YYYY*)

**PENALTY:** The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false.

**PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION:** The VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA Programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required to obtain or retain benefits. VA uses your SSN to identify your claim file. Providing your SSN will help ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. Giving us your SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide your SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. The VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** We need this information to obtain evidence in support of your claim for benefits (38 U.S.C. 501(a) and (b)). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 15 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.

**IN HOME CARE ATTENDANT  
PG 2 OF 2**



**WORKSHEET FOR IN-HOME ATTENDANT EXPENSES**

**NOTE:** Only complete this worksheet if you are claiming expenses for in-home care.

**IMPORTANT:** VA recognizes the following five activities as Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) for medical expense purposes:

- (1) Eating
- (2) Bathing/Showering
- (3) Dressing
- (4) Transferring (for example, from bed to chair)
- (5) Using the toilet

Custodial Care is regular -  
 • assistance with two or more ADLs, **or**  
 • supervision because a person with a mental disorder is unsafe if left alone due to the mental disorder

**IMPORTANT:** The following activities are examples of Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) for VA purposes. VA generally **does not** recognize assistance with these activities as medical expenses: (1) Shopping; (2) Food Preparation; (3) Housekeeping; (4) Laundering; (5) Handling medications; (6) Using the telephone; (7) Transportation (except for medical purposes such as transportation to a doctor's appointment).

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Use this worksheet if you are claiming payments to a disabled person's in-home attendant as an unreimbursed medical expense.

Follow the steps below to determine whether or not:

- the attendant must be a health care provider for VA purposes **and**
- VA may deduct payment for assistance with IADLs as well as assistance with ADLs and custodial care

**STEP 1.** Are you (the claimant) the disabled person, a surviving spouse, or a Parents' DIC claimant?

YES  NO (If "NO," skip to Step 4)

**STEP 2.** Did you claim special monthly pension on Item 37?

YES  NO (If "NO," payments to this in-home attendant for assistance with IADLs **do not** qualify as medical expenses. Please report separately in Items 45A thru 45F applicable amounts you pay an in-home attendant for: (1) health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider and (2) custodial care. Skip to Step 6)

**STEP 3.** Is the **primary responsibility** of the in-home attendant to provide you with health care or custodial care?

YES  NO (If "YES," payments to this in-home attendant **may** qualify as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F **if** VA rates you as eligible for special monthly pension. Please report separately in Items 45A thru 45F amounts you pay an in-home attendant for: (1) health-care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider, (2) assistance with IADLs, and (3) custodial care. Skip to Step 6)  
 (If "NO," payments to this in-home attendant for assistance with IADLs **do not** qualify as medical expenses. Please report separately in Items 45A thru 45F applicable amounts you pay an in-home attendant for: (1) health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider and (2) custodial care. Skip to Step 6)

**STEP 4.** Does the disabled person require the health care services or custodial care that the in-home attendant provides to him or her because of the disabled person's mental or physical disability?

YES  NO (If "YES," you must submit a statement from a physician or physician assistant that (1) the disabled person requires the health care services or custodial care that the in-home attendant provides to him or her because of mental or physical disability, and (2) describes the mental or physical disability)  
 (If "NO," the attendant **must be a health care provider**. Only report payments to the in-home attendant for **health care services or assistance with ADLs** provided by the health care provider as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. Payments for assistance with IADLs do not qualify as medical expenses. Skip to Step 6)

**STEP 5.** Is the **primary responsibility** of the in-home attendant to provide the disabled person with health care or custodial care?

YES  NO (If "YES," payments to the in-home attendant qualify as medical expenses (even assistance with IADLs) and can be reported in Items 45A thru 45F)  
 (If "NO," report payments to this in-home attendant for **health care and/or custodial care** as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. Payments for assistance with IADLs **do not** qualify as medical expenses)

**STEP 6.** Check all activities below that the attendant assists the veteran or disabled person with:

- ADLs:**  EATING  BATHING/SHOWERING  DRESSING  TRANSFERRING  USING THE TOILET
- IADLs:**  SHOPPING  FOOD PREPARATION  HOUSEKEEPING  LAUNDERING  MANAGING FINANCES  HANDLING MEDICATIONS
- USING THE TELEPHONE  TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-MEDICAL PURPOSES

**STEP 7. In-Home Attendant Certification:** Please submit a current breakdown of the time the attendant spends assisting the veteran or disabled person with health care services, ADLs and IADLs.

I **CERTIFY** that the information stated within this WORKSHEET FOR IN-HOME ATTENDANT EXPENSES is accurate and

reflects the current environment pertaining to \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Person Requiring Care)

and his or her care from \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Attendant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name, Signature and Title of Certifying Official)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Date Certified)