



## Department of Veterans Affairs "Aid and Attendance" Pension Program

### Introduction

A number of years ago the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) developed a new pension program designed to provide financial assistance to veterans who need extra care and lack the funds necessary to provide that extra care. This benefit also extends to the Veteran's surviving spouse. Unlike Medicaid, the VA pension is relatively easy to qualify for and provides substantial advantages over other need-based programs.

We specialize in consulting with individuals who may qualify for this remarkable pension program. By utilizing our expertise, you or your family members are relieved from the bulk of the headaches that often accompany a bureaucratic undertaking of this size. By working as a team with our clients, we can quickly provide the appropriate documents for the pension application and the veteran or spouse can be well on their way to accessing the benefit they so truly deserve. We will process the claim by evaluating and verifying the required data, then submit the forms to our processor who requests the pension. All applications are processed and filed with the law firm of Underhill and Underhill.

For many families dealing with the escalating cost of Assisted Living or Nursing Home Care, this benefit can be a defining point in the quality of care you or your family member can afford. Our experience in cutting through the jigsaw puzzle and infinite maze for this benefit has proven invaluable. **The VA benefit amount can provide significant help in paying for long term care costs, either for the homebound and/or assisted living/nursing home for the Veteran or Surviving Spouse.**

To see if you may qualify for this special pension review the Eligibility Check List Pre-Screen on the back side of this page. Most likely you will have numerous questions and want more information - please give us a call at 303-747-6295 for a free consultation.

You could qualify for this "Aid & Attendance" benefit. The maximum monthly pension rate for 2008 is:

\$1,842 for Veteran and Spouse

\$1,554 for Veteran

\$ 998 for Surviving Spouse

Or

You could qualify for the "Improved Pension" for a "Disabled Spouse" while the Veteran is still considered healthy. The maximum monthly pension rate for 2008 is

\$1,220 for Veteran and Spouse

The above pensions are a tax free benefit paid directly to the qualified applicant.

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## Aid and Attendance Pension Eligibility Check List

1. Did you or your spouse serve in the military during a time of war?  **Yes**  No
  
2. Will your assets be consumed (completely exhausted) during the next 12 - 18 months?  
(While the total amount of assets cannot exceed a certain limit, the amount is not as important as the time left before they are depleted. Many variables require each case to be evaluated individually. In general, the lower the level of assets the better. Eighteen months or less of usable assets is preferred)  **Yes**  No
  
3. Is your monthly income less than your monthly medical expenses?  
(Medical Expenses include the monthly charges at the Nursing Home or Assisted Living Facility where you are or will be living or payments you make to Home Health agencies or personal care providers)  **Yes**  No
  
4. Do you need help from other people in one or more of the following areas?  **Yes**  No

**Please circle all that apply:**

Bathing    Dressing    Transfers    Medication Management    Using the toilet  
Issues of incontinence    Personal hygiene    Ambulation (fall risk, wheel chair bound)  
Legally blind in both eyes?

AND/OR are you: Diagnosed with dementia /mental illness and require supervision for your safety?

5. If you are a surviving spouse, were you married to the veteran at the time of their death?  **Yes**  No
  
6. Are you currently receiving military-connected disability benefits from the VA?  
(If Yes, you may still be eligible for a partial benefit)  Yes  **No**

If you answered **Yes** to the first 5 questions and **No** to the last question, you may be eligible to receive monthly benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If you answered **Yes** to question 6, you may still be eligible for some benefits in addition to those you are currently receiving.