



INTRODUCTION TO THE VETERANS' AID AND ATTENDANCE SPECIAL PENSION

The Veterans' Administration offers a Special Pension with Aid and Attendance (A&A) benefit that is largely unknown. Most find it hard to believe it exists, but it does! This Special Pension allows for Veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing, undressing or taking care of the needs of nature to receive additional monetary benefits. It also includes individuals who are blind or a patient in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. It is not a benefit for a person needing housekeeping or respite or part time care. Assisted care in an assisted living facility also qualifies. This most important benefit is overlooked by many families with Veterans or surviving spouses who need additional monies to help care for ailing parents or loved ones. This is a "pension benefit" and is not dependent upon service-related injuries for compensation. Most Veterans who are in need of assistance qualify for this pension. Aid and Attendance can help pay for care in the home, nursing home or assisted living facility. A Veteran is eligible for up to \$1,644 per month, while a surviving spouse is eligible for up to \$1056 per month. A couple is eligible for up to \$1,949 per month*. Increase each year for cost of living.

Qualifications are:

- Veterans must have served 1 day during an active war and had no less than a 90 day service.
- Surviving spouses must still have been married to the veteran when they passed.
- You must have a doctor's order insisting you need the aid and attendance of another every day.
- You must have less than 80K in checking and savings even less if you are applying as a single(not including your home or vehicles) if you have IRAs and CDs they are included as income.
- You must have received an honorable discharge or general discharge.
- You can choose where you want to live as long as it is a credible facility or community/ Home care company.
- You may not qualify if you are on state assistance (Medicaid or another subsidized program due to your low income).

Please call us for more information

It is hard to speculate on what you will experience while filing for the Aid & Attendance Special Pension. Each case is unique and carries its own set of challenges. One thing you can expect is that it will take between 4-6 months for your application to be processed. Fortunately, all benefits are retro-dated back to the original filing date. However, if you or your loved one is ill, it can be a challenge to get everything done quickly.

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