



Veterans Service Office

CUMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 301

200 SOUTH LINCOLN

WEST POINT, NE 68788

AID AND ATTENDANCE PENSION

Welcome to the Aid & Attendance (A&A) Program through the Veterans Service Office. The A&A Special Pension provides benefits for veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing and undressing or taking care of the needs of nature. A veteran or his widow may be considered to be in need of regular aid and attendance if he or she is a patient in a nursing home or assisted living facility

QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE:

- Veteran must have served in the military for 90 consecutive days with one day during qualifying wartime
- Have less than \$80,000 in liquid assets (not including social security, home, cars etc).
- Veteran or surviving spouse in need of assisted living, skilled nursing or is housebound
- Income less than \$1049 per month after medical expenses, medicines, health insurance premiums, etc
- The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less

COMPLETED FORMS NEEDED TO FILE AN ACCURATE CLAIM WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS. THESE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE:

- VA FORM 21-526
- PHYSICIAN'S REPORT
- MEDICAL EXPENSE REPORT
- INCOME REPORT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED:

- Copy of current Social Security Award Letter (the letter that Social Security sends at the beginning of the year stating what your monthly amount will be for the following year).
- Net worth information, including bank accounts, CDs, Trusts, Stocks, Bonds, Annuities, etc.
- Proof of insurance premiums, medications, medical bills or any other medical expenses that are not reimbursed by insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid
- Employment history (does not apply if you are over 65)
- List of all Doctors and hospitals visited in the last year
- Proof of all income from pensions, retirement, interest income from investments, annuities, etc
- A certified copy of the court order if you are a court appointed guardian of the veteran or surviving spouse

Additional form needed if filing for a veteran only:

- Discharge Papers (DD-214)

Additional forms needed if filing for the surviving spouse of a veteran:

- Discharge Papers (DD-214)
- Marriage Certificate
- Death Certificate of Veteran

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING FILING

It is hard to speculate on what you will experience while filing for the A&A Pension. Each case is unique and carries its own set of challenges. You can expect to wait an average of 4-6 months for claim processing and determination of eligibility. Due to the current backlog of claims to be processed, this timeframe can be much longer. Many families can't afford to pay for care while waiting for the pension to be approved and funds to be released. Some Assisted Living Facilities will work with you if they know the resident qualifies for A&A. Fortunately, all benefits are retro-dated back to the original filing date.

If you or your loved one is 70 or older, you should request the application process be expedited. The VA's own law states that applications for benefits for a veteran/widow 70 or older are to be given priority. It is advised that you include a cover letter with the application noting this request.

Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding Aid and Attendance. My office is open 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM every Monday through Friday.