TWO TYPES OF VETERAN'S BENEFITS

Disability Compensation

A. Veteran suffered a service related injury. Here the veteran’s injury is rated as a percentage of loss i.e. 5%, 10%, 20% etc.

B. Disability Compensation is not limited by the Veteran’s income or assets.

C. Surviving Spouse/Dependents maybe eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA Pension

A. No service connected injury

B. Available to Veteran and Surviving Spouse. The Surviving spouse must have been married to the Veteran for at least one year, OR have had children by the Veteran if married less than one year, AND never remarried. Surviving spouse must have been living with the Veteran at the time of the Veteran’s death, unless the separation was due to medical or military reasons. (There may be some exceptions related to separations due to abuse.)

C. Benefit is paid directly to the Veteran or the Surviving Spouse

D. Veteran must have served at least ninety (90) days of Active Duty with one day of the ninety during a qualified war period. (Ninety days must generally be consecutive, with some exceptions.) (If the Veteran entered active duty after September 7, 1980 generally he/she must have served at least 24 months of the full period for which called or ordered to active duty (there are no exceptions to this rule)

E. War Time Periods;
   • World War I: April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918
   • World War II: December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946
   • Korean War: June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955
   • Vietnam War: August 5, 1964 (February 28, 1961, for veterans who served "in country" before August 5, 1964), through May 7, 1975
   • Persian Gulf War: August 2, 1990, through a date to be set by Presidential Proclamation or Law.

E. Veteran must have had an “Other than Dishonorable Discharge.”

F. Veteran’s physician must declare him/her in need of assistance from another individual and/or housebound with need of assistance from another individual, which may include services offered by a nursing home, assisted living or home health care.
G. Veteran should have limited household assets – excluding primary home, car, and personal belongings. If assets are jointly owned by other than spouse, only the Veteran’s share is generally countable. In the case of a married Veteran, both his/her assets are countable. There is not a set limit of assets, per se. *(The VA now considers the Claimant’s life expectancy in determining how much a Claimant can have. In the case of assets over $50K, it is best to consult an Elder Law Attorney. One should never transfer assets without the proper legal/professional advice.)*

H. Claimant’s gross household income minus unreimbursed recurring medical expenses equals the Veteran’s Income for VA purposes (IVAP).

I. Minor or disabled adult children may qualify for limited benefits on their own.