



Rensselaer County
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Rensselaer County Veterans Newsletter

STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN
 County Executive

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 Director

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Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a monthly benefit. It is paid to eligible survivors of:

- Service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty training, OR
- Veterans who died as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, OR
- Veterans who did not die as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, but were totally disabled by a service-connected disability:
 - For at least 10 years before death, OR
 - Since their release from active duty and for at least five years before death, OR
 - For at least one year before death, if they were a former prisoner of war and died after Sept. 30, 1999.

Van Transportation...

- * *Don't drive* and need to get to the Stratton VA Medical Center?
- * We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC for **most morning** medical appointments.

For more information please call (518) 270-2760.



VETERANS CRISIS LINE

1-800-273-8255
 PRESS 1

****Confidential chat at
 Veterans CrisisLine.net
 or text to 838255****
 TTY service 1-800-799-4889

**Confidential support 24
 hours a day, 7 days a
 week, 365 days a year,
 for veterans and their
 loved ones**

Who is eligible?

Surviving Spouses

You may be eligible for DIC benefits if you are a surviving spouse who:

- Married a Service member who died on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty training, OR
- Married the deceased Veteran before Jan. 1, 1957, OR
- Married a Veteran who died from a service-connected injury or disease, as long as the marriage began within 15 years of discharge, OR
- Married the deceased Veteran for at least one year, OR
- Had a child with the Veteran and cohabitated with the Veteran until their death.

Note: If you have a child with the Veteran but were separated, you must not be at fault for the separation and not be remarried in order to be eligible.

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Note: If you remarried on or after Dec. 16, 2003 and were at least 57 years old, you may still be eligible.

Surviving Children

If you are a surviving child, you may be eligible for DIC if the Veteran parent:

- Died in the line of duty, OR
- Died as a result of a service-connected injury or disease.

You also must be unmarried and either:

- Under the age of 18, OR
- Between the ages of 18 and 23 and currently attending school.

Certain helpless adult children may also be eligible. You can call 800-827-1000 for eligibility requirements.

Parents

If you are a surviving parent, you may be eligible for DIC if the Veteran child:

- Died in the line of duty, OR
- Died as a result of a service-connected injury or disease.

Emergency Medical Care

During a medical emergency, Veterans should immediately seek care at the nearest medical facility. A medical emergency is an injury, illness or symptom so severe that without immediate treatment, you believe your life or health is in danger. **If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.**

Veterans **do not** need to check with VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency department. During a medical emergency, VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay. A claim for emergency care will never be denied based solely on VA not receiving notification prior to seeking care.

It is, however, important to promptly notify VA after receiving emergency care at a community emergency department. Notification should be made within 72 hours of admission to a community medical facility. This allows VA to assist the Veteran in coordinating necessary care or transfer, and helps to ensure that the administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met.

IMPORTANT: An emergency department (ED) is a facility that is staffed and equipped to provide emergency treatment and does not include community facilities that provide medical treatment in situations other than emergencies.

Service-Connected Emergency Care

In general, VA can pay for emergency medical care at a local ED for a Veteran's service-connected condition, or if the care is related to a Veteran's service-connected condition. Specifically, emergency medical care for a Veteran's service-connected or related (adjunct) condition(s) is eligible for VA payment as long as the VA wasn't reasonably available to provide the care.

In accordance with the following situations and requirements, VA can pay emergency care costs for:

1. A Veteran who receives emergency treatment of a service-connected, or adjunct condition* in a community emergency department; **OR**
2. A Veteran who is Permanently and Totally disabled (P&T) as the result of a service-connected condition is eligible for emergency treatment of ANY condition; **OR**
3. A Veteran who is participating in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program, and who requires emergency treatment to expedite their return to the program, is eligible for emergency treatment for any condition; **AND** (scenarios 1-3 must all meet #4)
4. The emergency was of such a nature that the Veteran (or other prudent layperson without medical training) would reasonably believe that any delay in seeking immediate medical attention would cause their life or health to be placed in jeopardy.

NOTE: A service-connected condition is one that has been adjudicated by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and a disability rating has been granted. An adjunct condition is one that, while not directly service-connected, is medically considered to be aggravating a service-connected condition. Legal authorities and payment methods for VA payment for emergency care for service-connected conditions are contained in [Title 38 U.S.C. §1728](#), [38 CFR §17.120](#) and [38 CFR §17.132](#).

Nonservice-Connected Emergency Care

VA can also pay for emergency medical care at a community ED for a Veteran's nonservice-connected condition. However, there are several requirements and factors that affect the extent to which VA can cover those services. Specifically, emergency medical care for a Veteran's nonservice-connected condition(s) is eligible for VA payment when **all** of the following five elements are true:

1. Care was provided in a hospital emergency department (or similar public facility held to provide emergency treatment to the public); **AND**
2. The emergency was of such a nature that the Veteran (or other prudent layperson without medical training) would reasonably believe that any delay in seeking immediate medical attention would cause their life or health to be placed in jeopardy; **AND**
3. A VA medical facility or another Federal facility was not reasonably available to provide the care; **AND**
4. The Veteran is enrolled and has received care within a VA facility during the 24 months before the emergency care; **AND**
5. The Veteran is financially liable to the provider of emergency treatment.

There are limitations on VA's ability to provide coverage when a Veteran has other health insurance (OHI). If OHI does not fully cover the costs of treatment, VA can pay certain costs for which the Veteran is personally liable. **By law, VA cannot pay copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, or similar payments a Veteran may owe to the provider as required by their OHI.**

VA is also legally prohibited from providing coverage for individuals covered under a health plan contract because of a failure by the Veteran or the provider to comply with the provisions of that health plan contract, e.g., failure to submit a bill or medical records within specified time limits, or failure to exhaust appeals of the denial of payment.

NOTE: Legal authorities and payment methods for VA payment for emergency care for nonservice-connected conditions are contained in [Title 38 U.S.C. §1725](#) and [38 CFR §17.1000](#).

A Message from the County Executive

Still Serving: As County Executive, I get to see so much of our great county and the people and organizations who keep us strong. I am impressed and appreciative of how many times, at events and organizations for seniors, youths, charity and emergency services, veterans still lead the way in protecting us and our quality of life. Your service, and the service of your family, helps in so many ways and is not acknowledged enough. Thank you.

Rensselaer County takes pride in remembering the service of our veterans and their families. The services provided by county government for veterans, along with services at the state and local level, recognizes that veterans have earned our respect and support. We hope you find your interactions with county government positive and helpful, and myself and my staff look forward to assisting you in the future.

Sincerely,

Steven F. McLaughlin

Upcoming Events...



Call our office to inquiry about listing your event

March 27th...Rensselaer County Re-Entry Task Force Job Fair at Flanigan Square, 4th Floor Conf. Room, 547 River Street, Troy. Call Kacie Hull for more info at (518) 270-4002.

March 31st... Henry Street Barbershop event at the Troy Boys and Girls Club. Call (518) 274-3781 for more info.

April 8th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony-County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 am:

Walter H. Bethel-USN, S2c-WWII KIA aboard the USS Ingraham

RETURN THE F.A.V.O.R. VETERAN DISCOUNT PROGRAM

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Eligibility for the Rensselaer County Veterans' Discount Program is for Veterans or the widows/widowers of Veterans.

Eligibility for a Veterans ID Card is dependent on being an honorably discharged Veteran of the United States Military.

The Veteran or widow/widower **MUST** apply for the card in person.

Receipt of the Veterans FAVOR card is dependent on the Veteran or widow/widower's filing of an original Discharge (DD-214 / Report of Separation) at the Rensselaer County Clerk's Office.

WHERE DO I APPLY?

Rensselaer County Clerk's Office
105 Third Street
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 270-4080