

What Are Your Responsibilities?

The VA will not know when there is a change in your family status, so **you will need to inform them immediately when something changes.**

It is always best to inform the VA of a change *as soon as possible*.

Be sure to contact your Veterans Services counselor so that proper notification can be made to the VA, to **avoid overpayments and debt repayment.**

Keep in mind that the VA will sometimes *backdate payments* to make up for any shortfalls, or in the case of the loss of an eligible dependent, *your payment may decrease*.

You are responsible to tell us right away if any of the following situations apply:

- Your **income** or the **income of your dependents** changed (e.g., earnings, Social Security benefits, lottery and gambling winnings)
- Your **net worth** increased (e.g., bank accounts, investments, real estate)
- Your continuing **medical expenses** are reduced
- You gain or lose a **dependent**
- Your **address** or **phone number** changed
- You are in receipt of armed forces service **retirement pay**, unless your retirement pay has already been reduced because of award of disability compensation
- You are in receipt of benefits from the **Office of Federal Employees Compensation**
- You are in receipt of **active duty or drill pay** as a **reservist** or member of the **National Guard**.
(You **cannot** have drill or active duty **and** VA pay simultaneously.)
- **Non-Service-Connected Pension** recipients: *Report changes* in assets or income, including (but not limited to): wages, Social Security amounts, income, unreimbursed medical expenses, sales of primary residences, windfalls, lottery winnings, inheritances, or gambling winnings
- **Non-Service-Connected Pension** recipients: You changed from in home or Assisted Living Care to Skilled Nursing care and are in receipt of Medicaid.
- **Dependents**: If you have a disability rating of 30% or more, you **must** advise the VA of any change with your **spouse** or **children** - (birth, marriage, coming of age, divorce, or death)
- **Hospitalization**: If your award includes **Aid and Attendance** benefits, that additional allowance may be reduced. *Report changes* if you are admitted to a hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care at VA expense.
- **Incarceration**: Benefits will be reduced; you **must** advise the VA if you are incarcerated in a federal, state, or local penal institution for more than 60 days for a conviction of a felony.

Monthly payments may be stopped under the following circumstances:

- **Lack of Cooperation**: If you...
 - fail to submit evidence the VA requested,
 - fail to attend a VA examination when requested, or
 - submit false or fraudulent evidence to the VA, or cause false or fraudulent evidence to be submitted to the VA.
- **Fraud/Lying to the Government**: The law provides severe penalties, which include fines, imprisonment, or both, for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment to which you are not entitled. The VA may verify information you submit through computer-matching programs with other agencies such as IRS and Social Security.