

LEGAL TIPS

Veterans Benefits

By Matt Sullivan, J.D., LL.M.

Attorney & Counselor at Law

The freedoms that America enjoys and has enjoyed over the years aren't due to the actions of "smooth-talking" politicians. They are the result of the sacrifices made by brave American military Veterans and their families. Those people have earned and are entitled to benefits from the government.

Two types of Veterans benefits are known as Compensation and Pension. Compensation is awarded to the Veteran to compensate for a potential loss of income in the private sector due to a disability, injury, or illness incurred while in the military. To receive this benefit, the Veteran must have evidence of a service-connected disability. Most recipients are awarded an amount based on a percentage of disability. There is usually no income or asset test for this benefit and it is non-taxable.

Pension provides supplemental income to qualified Veterans who have non-service connected disabilities or who are at least a certain age. If the Veteran's income exceeds the Pension limit, then there is no award. It is possible, however, to adjust the Veteran's income for unreimbursed medical expenses which can allow someone with an income above the Pension limit to qualify for the benefit. An asset test must also be satisfied in order to qualify for Pension. This benefit is often referred to as "Pension with Aid & Attendance."

To possibly qualify for Pension, the Veteran must have served at least 90 days on active duty with at least one day being during a time of war and must not have been dishonorably discharged. It is not necessary that the Veteran served in combat to qualify for Pension. Surviving spouses of a qualified Veteran are also eligible for Pension in some situations.

There are numerous benefits afforded to Veterans and their families. Compensation and Pension are only two of them.

Matt Sullivan, J.D., LL.M., Attorney & Counselor at Law, can be reached at 903-482-0099 or through his law firm's web site, www.mattsullivanattorney.com.

This article is not intended as specific legal advice and you should consult with your own attorney. No attorney-client relationship is created between author and reader.

Copyright to all original material reserved by Matt Sullivan and/or The Sullivan Law Firm, P.C., 2013.