

Veterans Benefits – Pension with Aid and Attendance

Elder Law of East Tennessee

What is the VA Pension with Aid and Attendance? The VA Pension with Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a tax free benefit of up to \$25,448 annually for a married veteran and \$13,794 for a surviving spouse. The benefit pays for basic medical and care expenses. Receiving the VA Pension with A&A can make a tremendous difference in whether or not you are able to receive needed medical care. It can also help your family by preventing all of your assets from being spent on your medical treatment or care needs.

Who qualifies for the Pension with A&A? To qualify, veterans must meet strict qualifications for wartime military service, financial need, and medical need. Qualifying factors include the veteran's period of active duty during wartime, type of military discharge, marital status, monthly income, total assets, and degree and duration of disability. These factors must be supported by compelling documentation in the application.

What if I have too many assets to qualify? Many veterans and surviving spouses with real financial need struggle to meet the financial qualifications or have trouble gathering and presenting the necessary documentation to support their valid claim. **Even if your assets and income currently disqualify you for this VA benefit, there may be financial planning strategies which will allow you to become qualified.** Planning early with assistance from an accredited VA attorney will allow you to get the maximum value out of these strategies and make the most out of the benefit which you or your veteran spouse have earned.

Will I be able to keep my home? Yes! Qualifying for the VA Service Pension does not require you to give up your family home. Talk to an accredited VA attorney to learn about other types of assets which are excluded from your assets for purposes of VA qualification. You may think you have too many assets to qualify when in reality you do not.

How do I apply for the Pension with A&A? You may contact your local VA office or an accredited VA attorney to help you get started. Be aware that like most public benefits programs, the VA Pension with A&A requires rigorous documentation and a difficult application process. This is not the best time to handle matters without reliable advice.

I don't need the Pension with A&A now, but I may apply in the future. What should I do? You may also benefit from talking to a qualified and experienced VA attorney about financial planning strategies that can help you to qualify for the VA Service Pension while protecting your assets for your loved ones. Gift-giving and other transfers of assets may create complications in qualifying for benefits. If you believe that you will want to apply for benefits within the next several years, now is the time to seek help from a professional who can help you take the right steps forward.



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