



National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

1608 K Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006

Michael D. Helm, Chairman - Nebraska

Barry A. Searle, Director - Pennsylvania

30-09

December 3, 2009

VA SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS INSURANCE

The following information summary on VA Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (SDVI), policy number s. SDVI is a life insurance benefit associated with VA Compensation, and all veterans who receive new ratings for service-connected disabilities should be informed and assisted on this benefit during client interviews. Particular focus should be on veterans who are unable to follow substantially gainful employment due to service-connected disability, as they may qualify for free insurance coverage, and may also qualify for an extended insurance benefit as well. All veterans who are rated service-connected with severe disabilities, and who are interested in life insurance coverage, should have an SDVI policy.

1. SDVI is the only issue of direct VA life insurance for veterans currently open to new policyholders. To be eligible for coverage a veteran must apply within two years of having been rated service-connected by VA for a new, original, disability, must be in good health except for those disabilities that have been rated service-connected, and must have been released from active duty on or after April 25, 1951. VA Forms 29-4364 or 29-0151 (system generated form) are used for application, but an informal application (VA Form 21-4138, simple letter, etc.) can be made if necessary to begin VA processing. Application should be submitted to the VA Insurance Center in Philadelphia, PA. For cases where American Legion representation is involved, all SDVI items should be sent to:

The American Legion
Office of Insurance Activities
National Veterans Affairs &
Rehabilitation Commission
c/o Department of Veterans Affairs
Wissahickon Avenue & Manheim Street
P.O. Box 42938
Philadelphia, PA 19101-2938

Phone: 215-381-3022

Fax: 215-381-3183

The maximum face amount of coverage permitted by law is \$10,000. VA Pamphlet 29-9 describes this insurance issue (Web: www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/forms/29-9.htm), and contains information on plan types, premium rates, and related benefits. All VA Life Insurance Forms are available on the Web at: www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/forms/forms.htm.

Basic VA Service-Disabled Life Insurance policies, if approved, also provide for a disability waiver of their insurance premiums if an insured is totally disabled for insurance purposes. This is defined as any impairment of mind or body which continuously makes it impossible for the insured to follow any substantially gainful occupation. Generally, such disability(s) must haveth birthday, while the insurance was in force on a premium-paying basis, and must have been in effect for at least a period of six or more continuous months. However, disability waiver on RH policies may be granted from the effective date of the policy itself, depending on the date total disability began (if, for instance, a veteran was still on active duty, but under treatment and assigned to a medical holding unit due to severe disability. Such a time period can be used to comprise part or all of the six months disability requirement.). The age 65 time limit still applies in all cases, however. A VA Form 29-357 is used to make a formal claim for waiver of premiums, but a simple letter or statement of intent may also be used as an informal claim to begin the claim process. *A claim for waiver can be sent in at the same time the application for insurance is submitted, or any time thereafter.*

2. In addition to the waiver of premiums benefit, Congress has approved legislation which allows the VA to offer up to an additional \$20,000 Supplemental Service-Disabled (SRH) insurance coverage.

To be eligible for this extra coverage, a veteran must be insured with a basic RH policy, must qualify for a disability waiver of premiums on it, and be under age 65 when the application for Supplemental RH insurance is made. (However, application can be made early, please see below.) As in basic RH applications, an applicant for SRH insurance must be living when the application is made and received by the VA, and must be lucid enough to understand his or her actions (statements from two disinterested witnesses and, if possible, an attending medical professional her actions reasonably exists). This 6.424 317.33 Tm{T7(r)-6()-34ua)4(li7BT30.79 303.53 BT1 0 0 i1 0-/37f)3(e)4(ssi)).

669-8477. These plans and rates are the same as for basic RH coverage and are also contained in VA Pamphlet 29-9. If SRH is approved, premium payments can be made directly to the VA Insurance Center, or by automatic deduction from VA Disability Compensation, military retired pay or a checking account (pre-authorized debit system).

Claims for basic policy premium waiver and applications for insurance can be mailed directly to the VA Insurance Center in Philadelphia, PA, or through the co-located American Legion National VA&R office as desired.

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insurance numbers, Social Security Number, or VA Claim number.

Please Note. Should time be considered a critical factor (due to the medical condition of the veteran) basic RH applications, claims for disability waiver of premiums and SRH applications should be directly addressed to and sent to the VA Insurance Center, so that VA processing can be governed by the postmark date of the submittal. These materials can also be FAXED into the VA Insurance Center at **215-381-3524 (Local) and 888-748-5828 (Toll Free)**.

The American Legion Office of Insurance Activities at the Philadelphia VAROIC should be notified of such actions when representation is being provided by The American Legion.

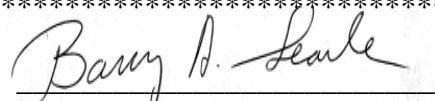
RH and SRH applications may be submitted by third parties acting on behalf of incompetent veterans if they are either a court-appointed guardian or a VA appointed fiduciary for the veteran. VA fiduciary appointments are processed through the VA Insurance Center. VA Disability Compensation.

Claims for disability waiver of premiums and applications for Supplemental Service-Disabled Life Insurance can be submitted at the same time application for basic RH coverage is made, or while a previously submitted basic RH application is still under VA development.

If an insured (or their guardian/fiduciary) feels he or she may meet the requirements for a disability waiver of premiums, and would like SRH coverage if a waiver can be approved, then it is best as a general rule that the VA be put on notice of such intent as early as possible (particularly if serious disabilities are involved or the age 65 time limit is near) so that the VA may begin to process such accordingly if the basic RH application is approved, and to have these submittals as a matter of record in the Insurance Center.

It is important to note that, should an insured become deceased shortly after making an application for RH coverage, premium waiver and SRH coverage, current VA procedure is such that the VA can still process the previously submitted applications, and may be able to render a positive decision on them if all technical requirements are met. Should SRH coverage be granted, any premiums due will be deducted from the face value of the SRH insurance .

A proactive attention to these insurance benefits can result in tax free payments currently ranging from


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