

VETERANS BENEFITS & Justice Involved Veterans

Many benefits for veterans are impacted by incarceration. This will depend on the type of benefit and the reason for your incarceration. Read below to find out how to maintain or regain your benefits.

DISABILITY

Veterans who are incarcerated for a felony will have their disability benefits reduced after 60 days of imprisonment. However, your benefits may be reinstated after release from prison based on the severity of your disability.

DISABILITY PENSION

If you are receiving VA pension, your payments will be terminated effective the 61st day of your imprisonment. But payments may resume after your release if you meet eligibility requirements.

EDUCATION

If you are incarcerated for other than a felony, you may still receive full monthly educational benefits. Even if you are incarcerated for a felony, you may still receive education benefits if they are not paid for by another government program.

Children & Spouses

All or some of the compensation not paid to an incarcerated veteran may be apportioned to the veteran's spouse, children, or dependent parents.

HEALTHCARE

After release, veterans interested in enrollment for VA healthcare should notify their nearest VA healthcare facility.

UPON RELEASE

Veterans may inform the VA of their release to have their benefits resumed within 30 days or less of their anticipated release date, based on evidence from a parole board or other official prison source showing the Veteran's scheduled release date.

OTHER RESOURCES

Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans
va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp

Veteran Justice Outreach Initiative
va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp

Steps to Take Pending Release to Begin Regaining Your Benefits

1. If you are currently receiving benefits, make sure the VA is notified to avoid an overpayment.
2. Schedule an appointment with a local benefits counselor at <https://dvs.az.gov/benefits-page> or call 1-800-852-8387.
3. Contact a representative from the Veterans Justice Outreach Program who can help you with your benefits paperwork prior to your release
4. Learn which VA medical center is closest to you at www.va.gov to quickly enroll at your nearest facility upon your release.
5. Contact HCRV (Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans Program) at www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp for more information regarding your healthcare, such as referrals to healthcare providers.

Disability Benefits

Disability Compensation Benefits

Reduction during Incarceration: VA disability benefits will be reduced for veterans upon their 61st day of imprisonment. Veterans rated 20 percent or more are limited to the 10 percent disability rate. Veterans whose disability rating is 10 percent will have their payment reduced to one-half.

Reinstatement upon release: Upon release from prison, compensation benefits may be reinstated based upon the severity of the service connected disability(ies).

Non-reduction for some persons: Disability compensation will not be reduced for those participating in work-release programs, residing in halfway houses (residential re-entry centers), or under community control.

Disability Pension Benefits

Termination: Veterans receiving VA pension will have their payments terminated effective the 61st day after imprisonment for conviction of either a felony or misdemeanor.

After release: Payments may resume after release if you meet the VA eligibility requirements.

Notification: Failure to notify the VA of your incarceration could result in losing all financial benefits until the overpayment is recovered.

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