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## **Information Paper**

### **What are Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits?**

**Aid and Attendance (A&A)** is a benefit paid in **addition** to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

- The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment, **OR**,
- The veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**,
- The veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**,
- The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

**Housebound** is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:

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***NOTE: This information is re-posted from various sources for informational purposes only. Your situation may be different from the next Veterans and so you should ask specific questions and seek help from a qualified attorney, Veterans Service Organization, or your local county VA office for more information.***



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- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, **OR**,
- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.
- A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time.

#### **How to Apply for Aid and Attendance and Housebound:**

You may apply for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits by writing to the VA. You should include copies of any evidence, preferably a report from an attending physician validating the need for Aid and Attendance or Housebound type care.

The report should be in sufficient detail to determine whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable.

In addition, it is necessary to determine whether the claimant is confined to the home or immediate premises.

Whether the claim is for Aid and Attendance or Housebound, the report should indicate how well the individual gets around, where the individual goes, and what he or she is able to do during a typical day.

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### **Who can help me Apply?**

Some authority suggests that agents and/or attorneys may charge for consultation about VA benefits before the initial application is filed. However, for the initial application itself, a fee may not be charged. The best alternative for many veterans is to see their local **County VA Counselor** or **Veterans Service Organization** to help in the initial application for benefits. Beware of organizations that charge you a fee to help you apply for benefits.

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