



October 2018 Newsletter

Helping Seniors Stay in Their Own Homes

Source: Nelson Elder Care Law LLC | All Rights Reserved | September 2018

Take Action: NEW VA LAW

CHANGES SEPTEMBER 2018

How the VA Defines “Net Worth” For Pension Benefits

Paying for Long Term Care can be a burdensome thought as many of us, and our loved ones, will simply not have enough money to pay for the costs of care as we age. Fortunately the Veteran’s Administration has a great Improved Pension program, called Aid & Attendance, to help wartime veterans, and their spouses.

Under this program they may receive up to \$2169 a month tax free in order to pay for unreimbursed medical costs. This has been a great relief for many that have served our country and now need some extra care. Aid & Attendance when combined with a moderate Social Security retirement benefit can often fully cover the cost of extra caregivers in the home or for care at an assisted living community if the veteran, or their spouse, needs more care than can be reasonably provided at home.

On September 18, 2018, in what they are denying as a cost cutting effort the VA has released aggressive rule changes to the Aid & Attendance program that will make qualifying for the benefit far more difficult.

Under the VA’s new rules, a Veteran, their spouse, or both, are limited to a “net worth” of \$123,600. This includes all assets, even retirement accounts, land over 2 acres, even including the equity value in their home if they intend on selling it to pay for care.

After October 18, 2018, Under the VA’s new pension rules there is a “3-year look back” that penalizes a veteran for almost any “gifts” or transfers for less than value received to the veteran, even if they were done before the veteran even conceived needing the extra care. This look back could result in a penalty of up to 5 years, where the VA will not provide benefits that the veteran, or their spouse, otherwise would be eligible.

Under the new rules, if a veteran has “gifted” amounts such as the IRS allowed gift exclusions of \$15,000 a year, charitable gifts and even tithe to their church they could be penalized from receiving the pension for up to 5 years. As an example, if a veteran transferred a total of \$50,000 over the last three years to family, charity or even certain investments like annuities, they could be ineligible for the benefit for over 2 years.



*Providing
safety and
independence
for seniors
since 2009.*

A Proud Member of



Gryphon Building,
1027 S Main Street
Suite 501

Joplin, MO 64801

417.206.4576
www.adelmofamilycare.com





Seniors Love Us
Families Trust Us



Our Staff



John Good
Owner



Kelsey
Ramsey
Marketing



Summer
Bettes
Supervisor



Kristy
Brownfield
Supervisor



Vicky
Cleveland
Mentor

Do You Qualify for Veterans Aid & Attendance?

Are you a veteran or the spouse of a veteran?

Did the veteran serve 90 days active duty with at least one day during active war time?

Was the veteran honorably discharged?

Does the applicant have less than \$123,600 in combined assets?

(Three year look back enforced 10.18.2018)

Does the veteran or spouse need assistance with any of the following:

- Eating
- Getting Dressed
- Bathing/Showering
- Walking
- Getting out of Bed
- Getting out of a Chair
- Using the Restroom
- Legally Blind

If you answered "yes" to the questions above, you may qualify!

You can call Adelmo Family Care and ask for an

Aid & Attendance Sign Up Packet

We help by providing you a checklist of documentation you will need to include with your application as well as contact information for local resources that can help you complete your application successfully.

Please Call Monday-Friday between 9am & 4pm

417.206.4576 or email Kelsey@adelmofc.net

Consider speaking with an Elder Law Attorney before October 18th to avoid the 3 year lookback penalty

**Looking for
Healthcare Solutions,
but don't know where
to turn?**

Consider reaching out to
Healthcare Resource
Connection! Find them on
Facebook
[@HealthcareResourceConnection](https://www.facebook.com/HealthcareResourceConnection)
or email
healthcareresourceconnection@gmail.com

