

The background of the entire page is a close-up, high-resolution image of the United States flag. The flag is shown waving, with the blue field of stars in the upper left and the white and red stripes in the lower right. The stars are a light beige or gold color, and the stripes are a deep red and white. The lighting creates a sense of depth and movement, with shadows and highlights on the fabric.

VETERANS RESOURCE GUIDE

ATTORNEY GENERAL LIZ MURRILL

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A MESSAGE FROM



**Attorney General
Liz Murrill**

Liz Murrill

Supporting Veterans

This guide aims to provide servicemembers, veterans, and their families with essential information, actionable steps, and contact details to navigate various aspects of their lives more effectively. From legal protections under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to understanding disability rights and accessing employment opportunities, each section offers valuable insights and resources tailored to the unique needs of those who have served our country.

Please take some time to review this guide, and feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further assistance. Our commitment to supporting our servicemembers and veterans remains unwavering, and we thank you for your service.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance, protections, and guidance are crucial elements in supporting veterans and active-duty service members as they navigate various financial challenges and ensure their well-being. This summary delves into the avenues available to them, covering financial assistance programs, tax benefits, consumer protections, and legal considerations.

VETERANS AFFAIRS PENSION BENEFITS

Low-income wartime veterans meeting specific criteria can access financial support through VA pension benefits, including Aid and Attendance or housebound benefits for eligible disabled veterans. Apply online at www.va.gov/pension/apply-for-pension/ or call the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs for personalized guidance at 225-219-5000 or via email at veteran@la.gov.

Only VA accredited agents or attorneys, VA approved veteran service organizations may assist veterans in applying for VA pension benefits. LA law and VA regulations prohibit the agents from charging of fees for assisting with benefit claims except under certain circumstances. You may obtain a list of accredited agents, attorneys, and VSOs at va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp

STATE BONUSES

Louisiana offers tax-free bonuses to veterans, including the Vietnam Bonus and the World War II Merchant Marine Bonus, with specific eligibility criteria outlined by state statutes. Visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov or call 225-219-5000 or email veteran@la.gov.

FINANCIAL PROTECTIONS

TAX BENEFITS

Service members can defer state and federal income taxes during military service and may qualify for property tax exemptions, including special assessments and credits for disabled veterans and employers hiring veterans. Learn more with the Louisiana Department of Revenue at www.revenue.louisiana.gov.

MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND

Established to aid Louisiana National Guard and Military Reserves members and their families facing financial hardships during active-duty service, providing assistance for various needs. Contact the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs for personalized guidance at 225-219-5000 or via email at veteran@la.gov.

INTEREST RATE CAPS

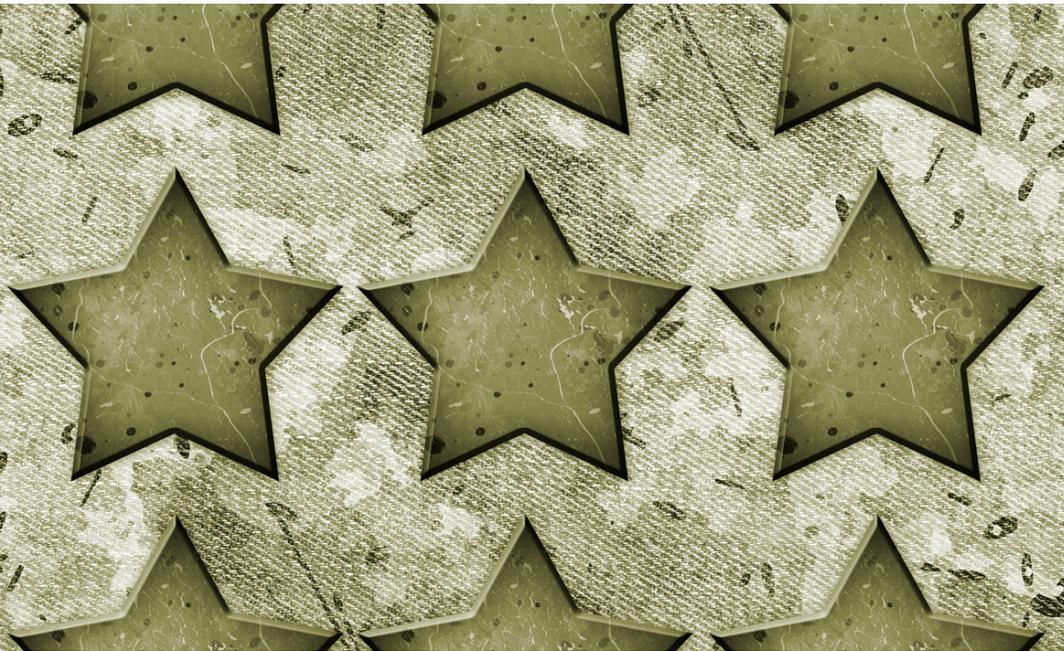
Service members can cap interest rates at 6% on existing debts incurred before activation, offering financial relief during active duty. Learn more at AGLizMurrill.com under Consumer Protection.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Resources such as Louisiana Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and Federal Trade Commission offer avenues to address consumer issues, financial scams, and identity theft, with dedicated services for service members and veterans. For the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau call 855-411-2372 (www.consumerfinance.gov). For the Federal Trade Commission, call 877-382-4357 (www.ftc.gov).

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Service members can grant trusted individuals power of attorney to act on their behalf in financial matters, with options to limit authority and revoke the power when necessary, ensuring legal protection and financial management during deployments.



CHARITIES

There are several charities or organizations that have been created to help veterans and their families. When choosing a charity to support, it is important to distinguish between reputable trustworthy charities and those that are not. We have included a list of charities to consider; however, please keep in mind that this list may change over time. Pay attention to media reports on this issue for the most up-to-date information.

Operation Support Our Troops-America

www.osotamerica.org

Adaptive Sports Foundation

www.adaptivesportsfoundation.org

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

www.iava.org

National Military Family Association

www.militaryfamily.org

Challenged Athletes Foundation

www.challengedathletes.org

Fisher House Foundation

www.fisherhouse.org

Our Military Kids

www.ourmilitarykids.org

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org

Higher Ground Sun Valley

www.highergroundsv.org

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

www.nmcrs.org

USO

www.uso.org

Wounded Warriors Family Support

www.wvfs.org

CHARITIES



HOUSING RESOURCES

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) offers protections and benefits to active duty servicemembers, Reservists, and National Guard members during financial hardships caused by military service. Families of active duty service members can seek assistance from their local military legal assistance office for more information. In the meantime, here are some offers, tips, and benefits available to veterans.

MORTGAGE INTEREST & FORECLOSURE

SCRA limits mortgage interest rates to 6% during active service. Foreclosure protections also exist and require court approval for foreclosures on servicemembers' properties during active duty.

PROTECTION FROM EVICTION

Landlords cannot evict servicemembers or dependents from their residence during active duty, unless certain criteria are met.

TERMINATION OF LEASES

Servicemembers can terminate leases under certain conditions if entering active military service after signing or receiving orders for permanent change of station.

VA HOME LOAN GUARANTY

Offers home mortgage loans to veterans and certain spouses. Eligibility can be determined through the VA's Home Loan Guaranty Services section on their website www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans

HOUSING RESOURCES

LOUISIANA VETERANS HOMES

Operated by the LDVA across the state, offering various services including long- and short-term care, mental health services, and more. For more information, call 877-GEAUX-VA (877-432-8982).

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Provides housing with access to services like education, employment assistance, health care, and counseling. Contact the local LDVA Veterans Parish Service Office for assistance.

SPECIALLY-ADAPTED HOUSING (SAH)

This is a grant program for severely disabled veterans to modify or construct homes to accommodate their disabilities. Information is available online at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp

OTHER RESOURCES

Homes for Troops offers specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans. For more information, visit www.hfotusa.org or call 866-787-6677.



MEDICAL CARE & DEATH BENEFITS

The Health Insurance section under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), servicemembers and their dependents are entitled to reinstatement of health insurance upon leaving the military if it lapsed during service. For questions about SCRA protections, contact your legal assistance officer. In the meantime, here is more information for your benefit.

MEDICAL CARE

TRICARE

Tricare offers health care to eligible members and their families, including servicemembers and retirees. Register in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), or contact TRICARE at 877-874-2273 or at www.tricare.mil.

VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTHCARE

Eligibility is based on discharge status, service-connected disability, combat status, or income. You can apply by calling 877-222-VETS (8387) or by visiting a VA Medical Center or www.va.gov/health-care.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION

You can apply online or by mail to the nearest VA regional office for monthly payments for service-related disabilities online or by mail using VA form 21-526EZ. For assistance, contact the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Services.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Vet Centers (www.vetcenter.va.gov) offer counseling and outreach services. Call 800-273-TALK (press 1) for immediate assistance. Or visit www.ptsd.va.gov for more information.

PROVING AN INJURY/ILLNESS IS SERVICE-CONNECTED

Veterans must submit evidence to support any and all claims. For more information, contact VA Healthcare at 877-222-8387.

APPEALING A DECISION/DENIAL

To appeal a VA benefits decision or denial, contact the VA hotline at 877-222-8387. Assistance is also available through veterans service officers, legal aid organizations, and veterans service organizations.

DISEASE-SPECIFIC REGISTERIES

You can visit the Disease-Specific Registries section at www.va.gov for more information. For example, veterans exposed to Agent Orange are eligible for VA benefits.

SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY

Combat veterans are automatically enrolled in Priority Group 6 for five years of VA healthcare. Contact their hotline at 877-222-8387 for more information.

DEATH BENEFITS

BURIAL & MEMORIAL BENEFITS

Veterans and their eligible family members are entitled to burial benefits at VA-operated cemeteries. Apply for benefits by contacting the VA's National Cemetery Administration at 800-827-1000 or visiting www.cem.va.gov. Coordinate funeral arrangements with the chosen cemetery. For Louisiana Veteran's Cemeteries, call 877-GEAUX-VA.

LIFE INSURANCE

Service members can apply for SCRA protection for eligible life insurance policies, ensuring coverage continues during and after military service. Contact your life insurance company to request SCRA protection and submit necessary documentation for approval. For information on Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI), visit www.insurance.va.gov or contact the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Services.

DEATH PENSION & GRATUITY PAYMENT

Surviving spouses and children of deceased veterans may be eligible for death pension and gratuity payments. Apply for death pension benefits by completing VA Form 21-534 and submitting to the nearest VA regional office. The military typically provides a \$100,000 death gratuity payment to next of kin. You can contact the appropriate military branch's casualty assistance officer for assistance with death gratuity payment application, or the Louisiana Department of Veterans' Services.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For Gulf War illnesses, vaccination adverse events, and more, visit respective VA or military program websites. Various mental health resources and veterans' assistance organizations are available nationwide.



SERVICE-RELATED INFORMATION

Transitioning from military service involves navigating various procedures and protocols. We've compiled important information on discharges, accessing military records, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and citizenship for military personnel and their families. Take a look at this section for actionable steps and essential contact information. If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out.

DISCHARGES

When a veteran leaves military service, the type of discharge they receive can affect their eligibility for various state and federal benefits. Veterans can request a review or change of their discharge type by completing and submitting specific forms depending on when they were discharged. Replacement of lost medals or decorations can be requested online or through paper forms. It's essential to ensure that medal recipients are legitimate to avoid violating the Stolen Valor Act.

ACTIONABLE STEPS

For more information on the steps to request your discharge papers, go to va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/

CONTACT INFORMATION

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records

1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel

MILITARY RECORDS

MILITARY RECORDS

Various situations may require access to military records, such as filing claims with the VA, applying for benefits, or proving eligibility for veterans' preference. Veterans can obtain their records by submitting a completed Standard Form 180 or providing necessary information to the appropriate agency maintaining the records. VA medical records can be requested in person or by mail from VA facilities. Claims files containing records related to benefits claims are maintained at the VA Regional Office where the claim was filed and can be reviewed or copied upon request.

ACTIONABLE STEPS

1. Complete SF-180 or provide necessary information for military records.
2. Submit VA Form 10-5345a for VA medical records by mail.
3. Request a copy of VA claims file using VA Form 3288.
4. Review or obtain a copy of claims file in person at the VA facility.

CONTACT INFORMATION

National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138
www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel

VA Healthcare System

www2.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?STATE=LA

VA Regional Office

Phone: 800-827-1000

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIA)
REQUESTS

The FOIA grants access to Federal agency records, including VA materials, except for exempted or protected records. VA publications and directives accessible via FOIA are often available on the VA website. Requests for VA records can be made through the FOIA website.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

NON-U.S. CITIZENS

Non-U.S. citizens serving in the armed forces and their dependents may be eligible for U.S. citizenship. Information on citizenship or immigration issues can be obtained from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Military Help Line. Visit the USCIS website for citizenship or immigration inquiries. Contact the USCIS Military Help Line for assistance.

CONTACT INFORMATION

FOIA Website

www.foia.va.gov

USCIS Military Help Line

877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645)

USCIS Website

www.uscis.gov/military



EDUCATION BENEFITS

Louisiana provides educational assistance to veterans, their dependents, and National Guard members, while federal programs extend support nationwide. This overview highlights state tuition exemptions, federal vocational rehabilitation, and scholarships for military families. It serves as a guide to accessing educational resources for those who have served and their families.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

LOUISIANA STATE EDUCATION BENEFITS

Title 29 Dependents' Educational Assistance

Louisiana offers educational assistance to surviving spouses and children of certain deceased or disabled war veterans. Contact the local parish veterans' service office for additional information.

LA National Guard Tuition Exemption

Louisiana National Guard members are exempt from tuition at state-funded colleges, universities, or vocational/technical schools for up to five years or until earning a bachelor's degree. Visit GeauxGuard.com or call 800-GOGUARD (800-464-8273) for more details.

Postsecondary Education Credits

Louisiana provides educational credits to veterans enrolled in public colleges or universities for courses related to military training or service. For more info, refer to La. R.S. 17:3351(E).

FEDERAL EDUCATION BENEFITS

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

Assists veterans with service-connected disabilities in obtaining suitable employment. Visit VA.gov for eligibility details.

Montgomery G.I. Bill

Offers education benefits to eligible veterans for various programs, including college and vocational training. Call 888-GI-BILL-1 (888-442-4551) or visit VA.gov for eligibility criteria.

Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008

Provides education benefits to individuals who served on active duty after September 11, 2001. For eligibility and benefits, visit benefits.va.gov or call 888-GI-BILL-1 (888-442-4551).

Federal Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

Offers education benefits to dependents of certain veterans. Contact the VA for eligibility criteria.

EDUCATION BENEFITS

RESOURCES FOR DEPENDENTS

American Patriot Freedom Scholarship

Annual essay contest open to children of active duty military service members or veterans. Visit homefrontamerica.org or call 949-248-9468.

Army Emergency Relief Fund

Provides financial assistance for college to dependents of active or retired military through the MG James Ursano Scholarship Program. Visit aerhq.org or call 703-428-0000.

Scholarships for Military Children

Offers scholarships to dependent children of military personnel. Visit militaryscholar.org or call 888-294-8560.

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)

Coordinates degree programs for military members and families, offering flexibility for frequent transfers. Visit soc.aascu.org or call 202-667-0079.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Scholarships

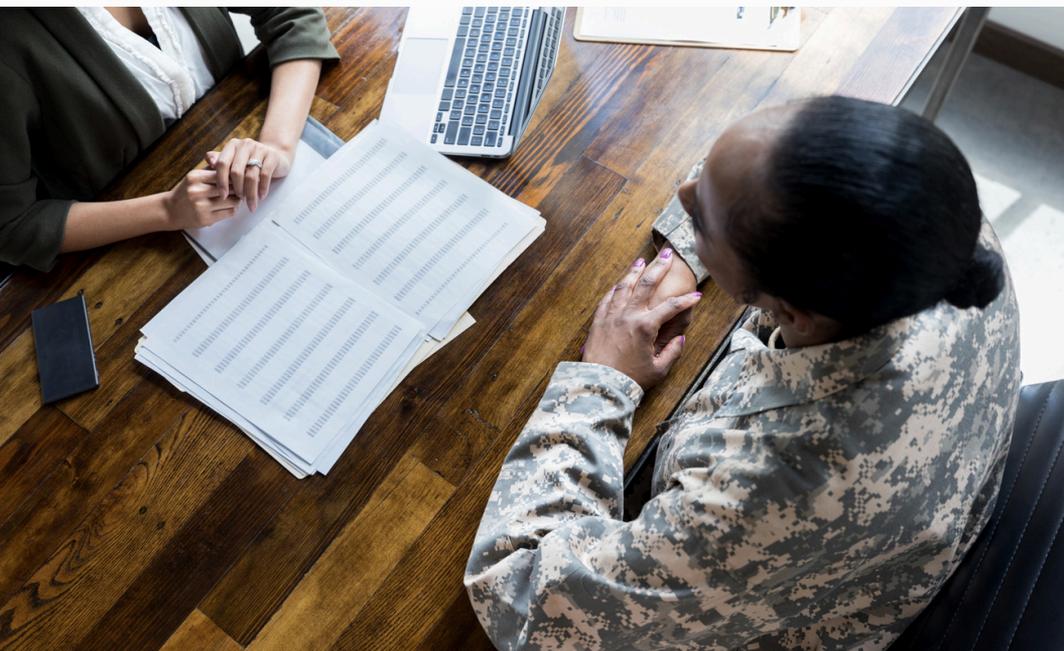
Various scholarships for veterans and their families. Visit vfw.org/scholarship or call 816-756-3390.

Horatio Alger Military Scholarships

Scholarships for veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. Visit scholars.horatioalger.org or call 844-422-4200.

AMVETS Scholarships

Annual scholarships for veterans, active military, and their children or grandchildren. Visit amvets.org or call 877-726-8387.



MOTOR VEHICLES

In recognition of their service and sacrifice, Louisiana extends a variety of motor vehicle benefits to veterans and active duty personnel. From special license plates to tax exemptions and recreational privileges, these benefits aim to ease the burdens and expenses associated with vehicle ownership. Over the following pages, you'll find a comprehensive guide to accessing these benefits, including how to apply and available resources for assistance.

DRIVERS LICENSES & PLATES

- Disabled veterans rated at 50% or higher can obtain free driver's licenses with a Veterans Designation.
- Free DAV plates are available for Louisiana residents with at least a 50% service-connected disability.
- Former Prisoners-of-War can get free X-POW license plates.
- Gold Star Family License Plates are available for immediate family members of service members killed in action.
- Purple Heart recipients can receive special plates at no cost.
- Various special prestige license plates are offered at regular plate cost for eligible veterans.

TAX EXEMPTIONS

Military personnel are exempt from use tax on vehicles imported into Louisiana while on active duty, with proof of prior sales tax payment.

MOTOR VEHICLES

SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT (SCRA)

Active duty servicemembers, Reservists, and National Guard members receive protections and benefits under SCRA regarding automobile leases.

VEHICLE ADAPTATIONS

Financial assistance is available to adapt vehicles for disabled veterans with certain disabilities incurred during military service.

RECREATIONAL BENEFITS

Free hunting and fishing licenses are offered to disabled veterans and active duty servicemembers. Eligible veterans also receive free entrance to Louisiana state parks.

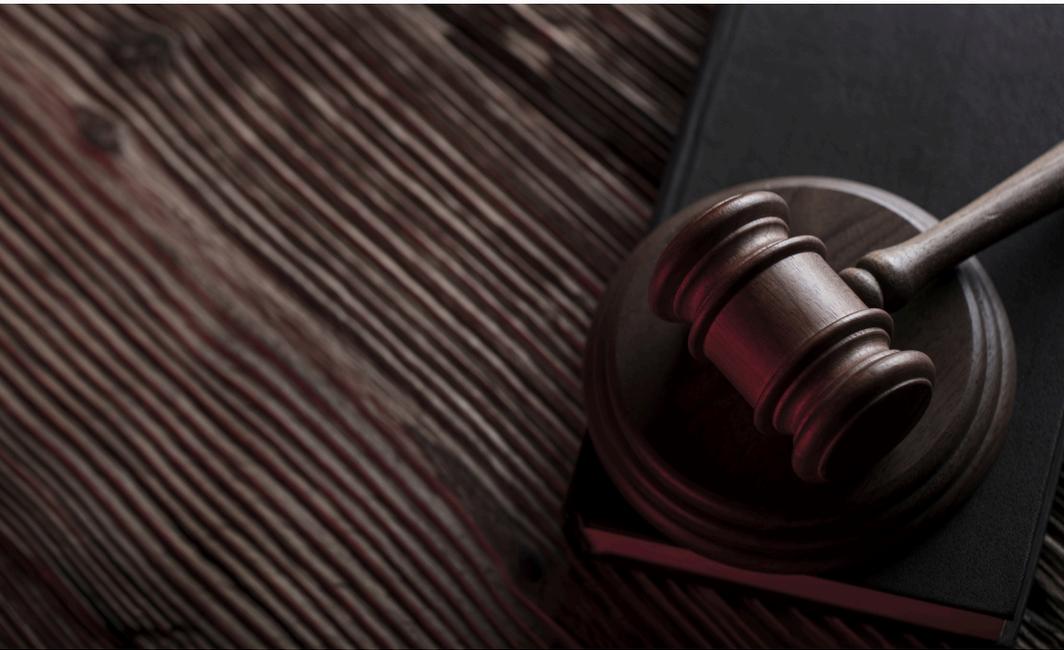
HOW TO APPLY

- Contact your local Parish Veterans Service Office for assistance with driver's licenses, plates, hunting/fishing licenses, state park exemptions, and other benefits.
- Complete VA Form 21-4502 and submit it to the nearest VA facility to apply for vehicle adaptation grants.
- For more information on SCRA protections, visit www.scra.gov.
- For inquiries about tax exemptions, contact the Louisiana Department of Revenue.
- Visit www.GeauxGuard.com or call 800-GOGUARD for details on National Guard tuition exemption.
- Reach out to local license vendor locations for hunting and fishing licenses at military rates.

MOTOR VEHICLES

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Parish Veterans Service Office: Local assistance with various state benefits.
- Louisiana Department of Revenue: Information on tax exemptions.
- VA Facility: Application for vehicle adaptation grants.
- SCRA: Details on protections for servicemembers regarding automobile leases. (www.scra.gov)
- GeauxGuard: Information on National Guard tuition exemption. (www.GeauxGuard.com); 800-GOGUARD
- Local license vendor locations: Purchase hunting and fishing licenses at military rates.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Navigating legal challenges while serving in the military can be daunting, but the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) provides essential protections and benefits to servicemembers and their families. This summary outlines key provisions of the SCRA, including stays of proceedings, execution of judgments, and re-opening default judgments, offering actionable steps and contact information to access these vital resources.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

OVERVIEW

For military veterans in need of legal assistance, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) provides crucial protections and benefits to navigate financial challenges stemming from military service. If you're facing court proceedings or administrative hearings that could be impacted by your military duties, consider requesting a 90-day stay by submitting a letter to the court along with a statement from your commanding officer. This can provide you with the necessary time to fulfill your military obligations without facing legal repercussions. Additionally, if you're dealing with judgments, attachments, or garnishments, you have the right to request a stay of execution by providing documentation supporting your request. Should you encounter default judgments issued during your military service, you can take action to re-open the case if your defense was impacted by military duties. Remember, legal assistance is available through your local Judge Advocate General (JAG) office or Military OneSource at 800-342-9647. Utilize these resources and visit www.servicememberscivilreliefact.com for further guidance on protecting your rights under the SCRA.

KEY PROVISIONS OF SCRA

Stay of Civil and Administrative Proceedings:

- Courts can postpone certain court actions and administrative hearings until a servicemember can appear in court.
- Servicemembers can request a 90-day stay by submitting a letter and/or statement from their superior officer to the court with supporting documents.
- Applies to civil lawsuits, child custody suits, bankruptcy meetings, and administrative proceedings.

Stay of Execution of Judgments:

- Courts can postpone or stop the execution of judgments, attachments, and garnishments against servicemembers.
- Postponement lasts for the period of active service and up to 90 days thereafter.
- Servicemembers can request a stay of execution, and the court must grant it.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Re-opening Default Judgments:

- Protects servicemembers from default judgments issued during their military service.
- Servicemembers can request to re-open a civil case decided by default judgment if they can and provide evidence of how military service affected their ability to defend the case.
- The court must re-open the judgment if certain conditions are met.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- For legal assistance and guidance on SCRA provisions, contact your local JAG office or legal assistance office.
- Military OneSource offers free legal assistance to servicemembers and their families: Call 800-342-9647.
- Visit the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act website for additional resources and information:
www.servicememberscivilreliefact.com.

By following these steps and utilizing available resources, servicemembers can navigate legal challenges more effectively under the SCRA.



DISABILITIES ACT

In today's world, understanding how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies to veterans is not only crucial for ensuring their rights but also for facilitating their access to various services and opportunities. In this next section, we'll highlighting key provisions and available resources so that veterans can advocate effectively for equal treatment and access to available opportunities.

DISABILITIES ACT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Overview of ADA Protections

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

Application to Veterans

Veterans with disabilities, whether acquired during military service or afterward, are protected under the ADA. This means they cannot be discriminated against based on their disability status in employment, access to public services, transportation, or accommodations.

Reasonable Accommodations

Employers and other entities covered by the ADA are required to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities, unless doing so would cause undue hardship. These accommodations could include modifications to the work environment, job restructuring, or provision of assistive devices.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Access to Public Services

Veterans with disabilities have the right to access public services and accommodations on an equal basis with others. This includes access to government buildings, transportation services, polling places, and other public facilities.

Resources for Veterans

Veterans who believe their rights under the ADA have been violated or who need assistance in understanding their rights can seek help from various resources, including:

- **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):** The VA provides information and assistance to veterans with disabilities, including guidance on their rights under the ADA.
- **Disability Rights Organizations:** Organizations such as the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) offer legal support and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities, including veterans.
- **Legal Aid Clinics:** Many legal aid clinics and veterans' advocacy groups provide free or low-cost legal assistance to veterans facing ADA-related issues.

DISABILITIES ACT

KEY POINTS

Understanding Disability

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as someone with a mental or physical impairment that significantly limits one or more major life activities. This includes individuals with a history of such impairment or those perceived as having one, even if this perception is incorrect.

Key Issues Addressed

The Attorney General's Office is committed to addressing various issues concerning individuals with disabilities, including:

- Ensuring fair housing rights
- Access to town and municipal meetings, polling sites, and governmental programs
- Access to retail establishments, restaurants, transportation, entertainment facilities, and other places of public accommodation

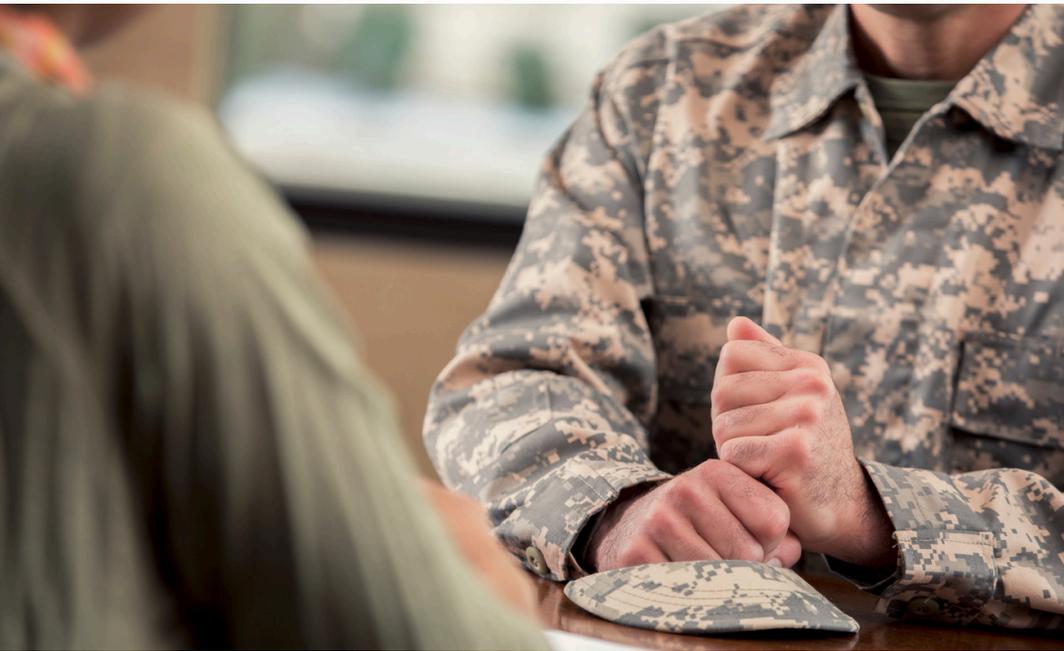
KEY POINTS

Enforcement of Disability Rights

The U.S. Department of Justice is responsible for enforcing disability rights laws and eliminating discriminatory barriers to services and programs. Attorney General Liz Murrill collaborates with other state attorneys general, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S.

Department of Justice, and various state agencies to ensure compliance with disability rights legislation. Additionally, cooperation with local disability rights advocates, commissions, independent living centers, and community access monitors strengthens efforts to uphold the rights of individuals with disabilities.

For more information or assistance with disability rights issues, individuals can contact the Attorney General's Office or visit the U.S. Department of Justice website.



EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

For veterans transitioning to civilian life, understanding their employment rights is paramount. This comprehensive summary delves into key aspects such as USERRA benefits, transferring military skills to civilian jobs, FMLA benefits, disability rights, and additional resources available to veterans. By familiarizing themselves with these rights and utilizing the provided resources, veterans can navigate the employment landscape more effectively and access the benefits they deserve.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

USERRA Benefits

- The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) requires employers to re-employ returning service members in the job they would have had if they had never left for military service.
- To be eligible for benefits, service members must provide advance notice to their employer, have five years or less of cumulative military service with that particular employer, and not be separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.
- Contact the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) at 866-4-USA-DOL (866-487-2365) for assistance or to file a complaint for USERRA violations.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Transfer of Military Skills to Civilian

Employment:

- Louisiana Revised Statute 37:3650 grants professional licensure and/or certification to individuals with military training.
- Spouses of individuals with military training and experience may also be granted licenses, certifications, or registrations.
- For more information on licensing and regulatory requirements, visit the Louisiana Workforce Commission website or contact the certifying board related to your profession.

Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Benefits:

- FMLA allows eligible employees to take up to 12 workweeks of unpaid leave in a 12-month period for various reasons, including caring for a family member with a serious health condition.
- A provision of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) allows for extended leave for family members caring for an injured service member.
- Contact the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment Standards Administration at 866-4-US-WAGE (866-487-9243) or visit www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/ for more information.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Employment Rights of Individuals with Disabilities

- Louisiana Revised Statute 23:323 prohibits discrimination against qualified disabled persons in employment.
- It outlines specific practices that employers, labor organizations, and apprenticeship programs must not engage in based on disability.
- Contact local workforce centers or the Louisiana Workforce Commission at 225-342-3111 or visit www.laworks.net for assistance in finding employment and making career choices.

Additional Resources:

- **VETS Program:** Provides employment and training services to veterans. Contact local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veteran's Outreach Program at One-Stop Career Centers or visit the U.S. Department of Labor website.

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- **LAVETBIZ:** Offers additional opportunities for Louisiana-based Veteran and service-connected disabled Veteran owned small businesses. Visit www.vetaffairs.la.gov/Programs/LAVETBIZ.aspx for more information.
- **Troops to Teachers:** Assists veterans interested in pursuing teaching careers. Contact 800-761-3012 or visit www.laartroopstoteachers.com for details.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program:** Helps veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for suitable jobs. Contact 888-442-4551 or visit www.laworks.net for more information.
- **Civil Service Preferences:** Provides hiring preferences to veterans applying for state and federal jobs. Contact parish service officers or visit www.opm.gov for specific information on federal civil service preferences.

By utilizing these resources and understanding your rights, military veterans can better navigate the employment landscape and access the benefits they deserve.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Navigating the complexities of military life and its aftermath often requires access to specialized resources. Let's highlight key services available to both military personnel and their families, covering areas such as VA caregiver support, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), and various support groups. Whether you're seeking assistance as a caregiver, applying for DIC benefits, or connecting with support groups, this compilation offers essential information to guide you through the process effectively.

RESOURCES FOR MILITARY & FAMILY

VA Caregiver Support

- The VA offers Caregiver Support Services and Tools for those caring for veterans.
- Services include a toll-free Caregiver Support Line at 855-260-3274 and a webpage at www.caregiver.va.gov.
- Caregiver Support Coordinators can provide information and assistance locally.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

- DIC is a tax-free benefit for surviving spouses or dependents of certain veterans.
- Eligibility criteria include the cause of the veteran's death and the veteran's discharge status.
- To apply, submit VA Form 21-534a and a copy of the veteran's DD Form 1300 to the local VA regional office.

Support Groups and Services

- **Veteran Service Organizations:**
 - **American Legion:** Contact at 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, Phone: 225-219-1945, Email: adjutant@lalegion.org
 - **AMVETS:** Contact at 2915 Armand Street, Monroe, LA 71201, Phone: 318-322-1938, Website: www.amvets.org

RESOURCES FOR MILITARY & FAMILY

Family Members of POW/MIA Service Members

- Each military branch has a service casualty office to serve family members of POW or MIA service members.
- Visit the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel website or contact the appropriate casualty assistance officer listed for more information.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Applicants can mail the required forms to the local VA regional office. Support groups and veteran service organizations provide additional assistance and information. For further details on POW/MIA services, individuals can reach out to the respective military branch's service casualty office or visit the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel website.

DAYS OF RECOGNITION

Purple Heart Day

Each year on August 7th, Americans pause to remember the brave men and women in the Army courageously defending the country no matter the price. Purple Heart Day serves as a reminder for all Americans to appreciate the peace and freedom they have today, which were gained by the efforts and sacrifice of many people. For more info, visit www.purpleheart.org.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

The Military Spouse Appreciation Day, also called as Military Spouse Day, falls annually on the Friday before Mother's Day in the United States. This special day is an occasion dedicated to the spouses of those who served in the U.S. armed forces for their tremendous sacrifice.

National Veterans Day Ceremony

Held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery, this ceremony commences precisely at 11:00 AM with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by veterans' organizations and remarks from dignitaries. It is intended to honor and thank all who served in the U.S. armed forces. For more info, visit www.va.gov/opa/vetsday.

ABOUT THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

If you are seeking justice for yourself in a personal, corporate, or family matter, you try to get the best legal representation. But if an entire State or its political subdivisions are injured or victimized by the federal government, a multi-national corporation, or even another State -- that requires an Attorney General.

The Office of the Attorney General *is* the Louisiana Department of Justice, and we work to protect the people of Louisiana as whole. We fight for Louisiana's natural resources, investigate fraud, secure justice for our most vulnerable, and so much more.

We also provide educational content meant to help you make wise choices based on guidance you can trust. With that in mind, we hope this guide to Fair Housing has been enlightening and instructive; but should you need more information, please feel free to reach out to our office or your local parish representative.

ABOUT
ATTORNEY GENERAL
LIZ MURRILL



AG Liz Murrill is committed to defending the rule of law and protecting the people of our State. She has argued multiple cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and served as lead counsel in many cases challenging federal overreach, ranging from open border policies and attacks on religious liberty to COVID-19 mandates and First Amendment violations. With more than 30 years experience working in state and federal government, including eight as Louisiana's first Solicitor General, Liz Murrill has been a champion for women, children, and victims demanding justice. Now she is leading the fight to preserve our rights, our industries, and Louisiana's unique way of life. You can learn more at www.AGLizMurrill.com.



www.AGLizMurrill.com

@AGLizMurrill

