

# How to Avoid VA Overpayments

## What is a VA Overpayment?

A VA overpayment is when a Veteran receives more VA benefits than he or she is entitled to and therefore must pay that extra money back to the Department of Veteran Affairs. Often this may happen if a Veteran is delayed in submitting paperwork or forgets to update records. When discovered, those funds are owed to VA, and may result in a deduction of your future monthly benefit amount until the debt is repaid.



It is important to keep an accurate and timely record of any change that could impact your benefits. Make any necessary changes through <https://www.va.gov/> or by calling 1-800-827-1000 immediately before an overpayment occurs.

## Some common overpayment situations are:

- A Veteran in the Reserves may be called up for active duty and still be receiving VA benefits
- A Veteran receiving education benefits does not complete the course requirements
- A Veteran has a change in marital status and does not notify VA
- A Veteran does not report that a school-age child has married
- He or she experiences the death of a dependent and does not notify VA
- A Veteran receives care at a VA medical facility and does not pay a required co-pay
- A Veteran or beneficiary is incarcerated but still receives benefits during the period of incarceration
- A Veteran or beneficiary receiving an income-based pension doesn't report a change in income
- The Vocational Rehabilitation program purchased a service or tools for a Veteran, who then leaves the program without a valid reason

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## How do I get my overpayments waived or cancelled?

If you believe you have received an overpayment notice in error, then you may request a waiver to terminate collection action on a debt. If a waiver is granted in full or part, you will not be required to pay the amount that was waived.

Work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization representative to assist with the waiver process, or contact VA's Debt Management Center for additional information. Visit <https://www.va.gov/debtman/index.asp> or call 1-800-827-0648.

### Note:

If you send your request for waiver within 30 days of the overpayment notice, then you will continue to receive your full VA benefits until a decision regarding your request for waiver is provided. For more information about the waiver process, visit [https://www.va.gov/debtman/Submit\\_A\\_Waiver\\_Request.asp](https://www.va.gov/debtman/Submit_A_Waiver_Request.asp)

