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VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

A Guide for Military Service Personnel and Veterans

— FROM THE OFFICE OF — MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL LORI SWANSON

www.ag.state.mn.us

Veteran Facts:

- There were 19.6 million veterans in the U.S. in 2013.
- 1.6 million veterans are women.
- 9.3 million veterans are over the age of 65.
- 26.8 percent of veterans 25 and older have a bachelor's degree.
- Annual median income for veterans in 2013: \$36,381.
- 3.6 million veterans have a service-connected disability rating.

The Minnesota Attorney General's Office provides assistance to veterans and service members. If a veteran, service member, or a member of your family is experiencing difficulty with veteran's benefits, TRICARE benefits, credit issues, home mortgage, identity theft, or another consumer related matter, you may contact the Attorney General's Veterans Assistance Unit for help at 651-296-3353 or 800-657-3787.

There are various state and federal laws that may affect you if you are a veteran, service member, or their dependent. This booklet is designed to summarize several laws that affect service members and their dependents. It is not all inclusive, and if you have questions please contact us and we will try to assist you.

This brochure is intended to be used as a source for general information and is not provided as legal advice.

Veterans and Service Members is written and published by the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. This handbook is available in alternate formats upon request.

The Minnesota Attorney General's Office values diversity and is an equal opportunity employer.

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE 445 Minnesota Street Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101 651-296-3353 800-657-3787 TTY: 651-297-7206 TTY: 800-366-4812

www.ag.state.mn.us

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The Servicemember's Civil Relief Act provides certain protections for service men and women on active duty in the United States Armed Services.

Federal Acts -

Servicemember's Civil Relief Act

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act was amended in December of 2003 to give protections to service members. The amendment also changed the name of the Act to the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act ("SCRA"). Despite the name change, the Act still provides certain protections for service men and women on active duty in the United States Armed Services. The Act also applies to a service member called to active State duty because of a federal emergency, such as the National Guard's assistance in airport security. Under the Act you may qualify for certain protections, including,

but not limited to the following:

- Reduced interest rate on mortgage payments;
- Reduced interest rate on credit card debt, car loans, and other debt;
- Protection from eviction if your rent is less than \$3217.81 per month (as of 2014); and
- Delay of all civil court actions, such as bankruptcy, foreclosure, or other proceedings.

Interest Rate on Debt

The Act limits the amount of interest that may be collected on debts of persons in military service to six percent per year during the period of military service. The provision applies to all debts incurred prior to the commencement of active duty and includes interest on credit card debt, mortgages, car loans, and other debts. The Act requires you or your family to request the rate reduction by giving written notice to the creditor with a copy of military orders calling you to military service and any orders extending that service. Once you request an interest rate reduction, a creditor must lower the rates or apply for court relief in which the burden is on the creditor to prove that the service member has not been "materially affected." (The Act does not apply to federal guaranteed student loans, but payments for such loans can sometimes be deferred or suspended by contacting the loan guarantor.) The creditor must forgive any interest in excess of six percent with a resulting decrease in the amount of periodic payment that you are required to make.

Real Estate Leases

The Act also protects dependents from being evicted by a landlord while you are on active duty. If rent does not exceed \$3217.81 per month (as of 2014), no eviction shall be made during the period of military service without an application to the court. If an application is

made, the court may enter a stay of three months or another period of time the court believes is appropriate. A lease may be terminated by a tenant upon written notice of your military orders. The lease will terminate 30 days after the next monthly rent payment is due.

Civil Actions and Foreclosures

The court must grant a stay for at least ninety days for civil actions and foreclosures upon request by the service member. If an additional stay is requested by the service member and denied, the court must appoint counsel to represent the service member.

Motor Vehicle Leases

The Act allows service members who have been called to active duty to terminate certain automobile lease agreements. For instance, if you are called to serve at least 180 days, you may terminate a motor vehicle lease, without paying an early termination fee or other penalty as long as the termination notice is delivered in writing along with a photocopy of your military orders to the lessor, grantee, and agent, and the vehicle is returned to the lessor's agent within 15 days of the delivery of the notice. If a lease is entered into after being called to active duty, that lease can be terminated if you receive orders for a permanent change of station outside the U.S. or to deploy with a military unit for 180 days or more.

For more information about the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, please contact the Minnesota Attorney General's Office at 651-296-3353 or 800-657-3787.

Federal Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ("USERRA")

USERRA provides protection for service members by ensuring that you can leave your civilian job for military service and perform your duties with the knowledge that you will be able to return to your job with the same pay, benefits, and status you would have obtained had you not been away on duty.

In order to qualify for certain rights under USERRA, you must give advance notice to your employer regarding your military service. Furthermore, if you receive benefits through a multi-employer pension or welfare benefit plan you must notify the plan administrator of your military service within 30 days of reemployment. Under USERRA, you may qualify for certain protections, including, but not limited to the following:

• Employers may not discriminate against service members or veterans based upon their military service;

USERRA ensures that you can return to your civilian job with the same pay, benefits, and status you would have obtained had you not been away on duty.

VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

- Service members may be absent from work due to military duty for 5 cumulative years, while still retaining their reemployment rights (exceptions may apply);
- Employers must reemploy returning service members in the job that they
 would have obtained had they not been absent for military service, with
 the same seniority status and pay, as well as other rights determined by
 seniority;
- Employers must make a reasonable effort to provide training to enable returning service members to upgrade or refresh their skills to qualify for reemployment;
- Service members injured in the line of duty may have up to 2 years from the date of their completion of service to return to work or apply for reemployment;
- Employers must make a reasonable effort to accommodate a veteran's disabilities:
- In cases where a service member will perform active duty less than 30 days, employers must ensure that any employer sponsored health care coverage is continued during that time, as if the service member had remained employed;
- Service members performing military service for more than 30 days may elect to continue employer-sponsored health care coverage for up to 24 months, but may be required to pay up to 102 percent of the premium charges for the coverage;
- Employers must provide reemployed service members with all benefits that they would have obtained as if they had been continuously employed (except short-term compensation such as accrued paid vacation); and
- Employers must treat reemployed service members as if they have not had a break in service for the purposes of pension plans and Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") benefits.

If you believe that an employer may be violating your rights under USERRA, you may file a complaint with the Veterans' Employment and Training Service Division ("VETS") of the United States Department of Labor.

To file a formal USERRA complaint with VETS, complete "Form 1010" which is available on the United States Department of Labor's website www.dol.gov/vets, or contact the Department.

If you believe that an employer may be violating your rights under USERRA, you may file a complaint with the Veterans' Employment and Training Service Division ("VETS") of the United States Department of Labor.

United States Department of Labor

Veterans' Employment and Training Service Division

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room S-1325

Washington, D.C. 20210

866-4-USA-DOL (866-487-2365)

TTY: 877-889-5627

Veterans' Employment and Training Service

332 Minnesota Street, Suite W1372St. Paul, MN 55101651-259-7512

Reserve and Guard members may also contact:

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

4800 Mark Center Dr., Suite 03E25 Alexandria, VA 22350-1200 800-336-4590 www.esgr.mil

In the event that VETS is unsuccessful in resolving your complaint under USERRA, you may request that VETS refer the complaint to the United States Attorney General, who may choose to initiate legal action on your behalf. Alternatively, you may elect to file a private legal action under USERRA. For more information about your rights under USERRA, please contact us.

Minnesota State Laws -

Employment Rights

Minnesota State law also protects armed service personnel from employment discrimination. A Minnesota employer may not ask persons seeking employment if they are a member of the National Guard or a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces, nor can an employer require a person seeking employment to make any oral or written statement concerning their National Guard or reserve status as a condition precedent to employment. Under Minnesota law, employers are prohibited from discharging any person from employment because of membership in the military or naval forces. Employers are also prohibited from hindering or preventing any employee from enlisting in or performing military service.

A Minnesota employer may not ask persons seeking employment if they are a member of the National Guard or a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces.

VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS If you are a public employee and are called to service, you are entitled to leaves of absence of at least four years, and in some cases more.

Public Employment

If you are an employee of the State of Minnesota, political subdivision, municipal corporation, or another type of public employee, and you are called to service, you are entitled to leaves of absence of at least four years, and in some cases more.

You are also protected from certain losses of pay, seniority status, efficiency status, vacation benefits, sick leave, and other benefits when you serve in training or active service. In order to qualify for such protection, however, you must apply for reemployment within 90 days after termination of service. Qualification for such protection also requires that the position has not been eliminated, that you are not disabled from performing the position, and that you were honorably discharged. If you receive a leave of absence for military service, you may also receive certain protections regarding your pension rights. For instance, service credits can be continued through the leave period as long as you make the required pension contributions that would have been otherwise required had you worked during that time period. Finally, if you are a veteran, you may not be removed from public employment except for incompetence or misconduct, which must be proved through a special hearing process allotted to veterans.

Public employees who serve in training or active service for the Reserves or National Guard for less than 15 days in a calendar year are entitled to serve without loss of pay, seniority status, and other benefits during such limited leaves of absence.

With regard to certain public positions, Minnesota law also provides preferences that can be used by veterans, spouses of deceased veterans, and spouses of disabled veterans. If you receive a veterans preference, and a public employer rejects you, the public employer must notify you in writing of the reasons for the rejection and file the notice with the appropriate local personnel officer.

Under Minnesota law, if you are a veteran, and you have been denied veterans preference rights by the State of Minnesota or any political subdivision or other public employer, the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs may assist you.

Education Rights

Minnesota law provides that if you are a service member called to duty, you may withdraw from post-secondary courses and receive a credit for certain tuition and fees already paid.

You may also receive a refund for certain amounts paid for room, board, and fees attributable to the time in active military service. You may elect to receive an "incomplete" for a given course, which you may complete upon completion of your active service or any medical treatment that may be necessary. In the event that you choose to continue and complete a course for full credit, class sessions that you miss in order to perform active military service must be counted as excused absences. Such absence may not be used in any way to adversely impact your grade or standing in the class. Under this option, however, you are not automatically excused from completing assignments, and a grade may only be awarded if, in the opinion of the faculty member teaching the course, you have completed sufficient work and have demonstrated sufficient progress towards meeting the course requirements to justify a grade.

In the event you choose to withdraw from a post-secondary school due to military service, you have the right to be readmitted and reenrolled as a student at the institution without penalty or re-determination of admission eligibility within two years following your release from military service, or completion of medical treatment, or sufficient recovery from the medical condition. Advance notice that you will be serving in active military service is required unless that notice is precluded by military or medical necessity. A post-secondary institution can require verification of an order to active service.

Minnesota law provides additional education benefits for veterans and their dependents. Some of these benefits include:

- Veterans may receive up to \$750 for tuition charges from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Spouses and children of veterans who died in active service may attend
 Minnesota public eligible institutions free of tuition charges and may
 receive an educational assistance stipend of up to \$750 per year from
 the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Dependents of a POW/MIA may attend Minnesota public post-secondary institutions free of tuition charges. If they choose a private undergraduate institution, they may receive up to \$250 per year in assistance;
- Veterans may receive educational credit from post-secondary institutions for training that they received in the military;

Minnesota law provides that if you are a service member called to duty, you may withdraw from post-secondary courses and receive a credit for certain tuition and fees already paid.

- Veterans are granted resident status for undergraduate study at University of Minnesota institutions or Minnesota State Colleges and Universities;
- A veteran is granted resident status for graduate study at University of Minnesota institutions or Minnesota State Colleges and Universities if he/she was a resident of Minnesota at the time military service began, and initiates enrollment in the school within 2 years of completing the military service; and
- National Guardsmen and surviving dependents under the age of 24 who are attending post-secondary educational institutes may obtain certain reimbursement for tuition and textbook costs.

You may contact the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs as follows:

Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs

Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th Street, Room 206-C
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-2006
651-296-2562
www.mn.gov/mdva

Contracts

If you are a service member who has been called to active duty, cell phone or wireless contracts may be terminated without penalty. In addition, rental contracts, club contracts, service contracts, and membership travel contracts may be canceled without penalty and with a full refund of any deposit if a deployment or change in duty prevents a service member from using the service or abiding by the terms of the contract. This includes services such as television, computer, or Internet services.

Discrimination

Minnesota law prohibits discrimination in public accommodations or public services. If you are a member of the military forces, no person may discriminate against you because of your membership in the military or because you are wearing a military uniform. Such discrimination is classified as a misdemeanor. In addition, the law also authorizes a person injured as a result of such discrimination to bring a private legal action.

Motor Vehicles

In the event that your driver's license expires while you are called to active duty outside Minnesota, your driver's license continues in full force and effect without requirement for renewal until one year after your separation or discharge from such duty.

If you are a service member who has been called to active duty, certain contracts may be canceled without a penalty if a deployment or change of duty prevents a service member from using the service or abiding by the terms of the contracts.

Minnesota law provides that if you are a person in active military service, your motor vehicle is exempt from the motor vehicle registration tax during the period of such active service and for 90 days thereafter. You must file with the registrar of motor vehicle a written application for exemption with proof of military service. The motor vehicle cannot be operated on a public highway within the State during the time of exemption except by its owner while on furlough or leave of absence from the military. Additionally, any motor vehicle that has been furnished for free by the U.S. government to a disabled war veteran is exempt from the motor vehicle registration tax.

Professional Licenses

If you are a service member on active duty, you are exempt from any fees or renewal requirements necessary to maintain a license or certificate to practice a certain trade, employment, occupation, or profession during the time that you are serving in the military and for a period of six months after discharge.

Public Records

The officer charged with maintaining your records must provide certified copies of your birth, death, marriage, divorce, or discharge records, free of charge, for use in presenting claims to the United States Veteran's Administration, State Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other veteran organization.

Credit Laws -

Active Duty Alert

A provision of a federal law known as the Fair Credit Reporting Act allows service members on active duty to place an Active Duty Alert on their credit report. Once you place an Active Duty Alert on your credit report, lenders must take additional steps to ensure your identity before allowing credit to be granted in your name. Active Duty Alerts remain in effect on your credit report for one year. To place an Active Duty Alert on your credit report, you may contact the three major credit reporting bureaus directly:

Experian	Equifax	TransUnion
P O Box 2104	P O Box 740241	P O Box 1000
Allen, TX 75013	Atlanta, GA 30374	Chester, PA 19022
888-397-3742	800-525-6285	800-680-7289
www.experian.com	www.equifax.com	www.transunion.com

The Fair Credit
Reporting Act allows
service members on
active duty to place an
Active Duty Alert on
their credit report.

Security Freeze

Under Minnesota law, you may take action to protect yourself from identity theft even if you are not on active duty by contacting the credit bureaus to place a "freeze" on your credit report. Once a security freeze is placed upon your credit report, you will be given a PIN number, which will then be required in connection with any credit request in your name. To initiate a security freeze on your credit report, you must contact the credit bureaus and pay a \$5 fee for each freeze. Victims of identity theft may obtain security freezes free of charge. To request a freeze, contact:

Experian	Equifax	TransUnion
Security Freeze	Security Freeze	Security Freeze
P O Box 9554	P O Box 105788	P O Box 2000
Allen, TX 75013	Atlanta, GA 30348	Chester, PA 19022
972-390-4172	800-685-1111	888-909-8872
www.experian.com/	www.freeze.equifax.com	www.transunion.com/
freeze		securityfreeze

Annual Credit Report

To stay on guard against identity theft, we recommend that you monitor the status of your credit report. Under federal law, you may obtain one free copy of your credit report per year from each of the major credit bureaus. You may obtain these reports in one of three ways:

- 1. Logging on to www.AnnualCreditReport.com
- 2. Calling 877-322-8228
- Writing: Annual Credit Report Request Service PO Box 105283 Atlanta, Georgia 30348-5283

Be aware that if you attempt to obtain a copy of your credit report through any channel not listed above, you may be charged for the report.

Veteran Affairs -

United States Department of Veteran Affairs
The United States Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") provides
a variety of services and information to veterans including:

- Compensation and Pension Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Home Loans Benefits
- Life Insurance Benefits

To stay on guard against identity theft, we recommend that you monitor the status of your credit report.

- Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits
- Survivor's Benefits
- Pharmacy Benefits
- Burial Benefits
- Health Care Benefits

If you have questions about benefits, you may contact the VA as follows:

United States Department of Veteran's Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration

St. Paul Regional Office 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling St. Paul, MN 55111 800-827-1000 www.va.gov

Additional VA facilities are listed in the Resources section at the end of this publication.

Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs ("MDVA") assists veterans and their dependents in obtaining benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Specifically, the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs may act as an "agent" to assist you with a claim against the United States for benefits arising out of service in the armed forces. State law provides that the MDVA maintain a State soldiers' assistance fund to assist you and your dependents in obtaining benefits relating to their health, compensation, pension, and other benefits provided to veterans. The MDVA is charged with cooperating with all other public entities to secure benefits provided by national, State, and county laws as well as public and private social agencies for you and your dependents. The Commissioner must also provide necessary assistance if other adequate aid is not available to your dependent family members while you are hospitalized or after you are released. The MDVA provides the following contacts for its divisions and programs on its website at www.mn.gov/mdva:

• Veterans Benefits: 651-296-7342

• Veterans Preference in Employment/Dismissal: 651-757-1568

• Claims Division: 612-970-5662

• State Veterans Cemetery: 320-616-2527

If you have questions about benefits, you may contact the VA as follows:

United States Department
of Veteran's Affairs
Veterans Benefits
Administration
St. Paul Regional Office
1 Federal Drive,
Fort Snelling
St. Paul, MN 55111
800-827-1000
www.va.gov

TRICARE is the United
States Department of
Defense's ("DOD") health
care coverage program
for service members and
their dependents.

Additional services and programs such as the War Orphans Education Program, Veterans Educational Assistance Program, and Military records may be accessed by contacting your County Veterans Service Officer. To determine who your County Veterans Service Officer is, visit www.macvso. org/directory.aspx.

TRICARE -

TRICARE is the United States Department of Defense's ("DOD") health care coverage program for service members and their dependents. TRICARE offers several health care packages with different levels of coverage. You may obtain information about each of these programs from the TRICARE website, or by contacting TRICARE West Region as follows:

TRICARE—Regional Office West

800-558-1746

www.tricare.mil

United Healthcare Military & Veterans Services is a public company that contracts with the DOD to administer benefits under the TRICARE program. You may contact United Healthcare by phone at 877-988-9378, or online at www.uhcmilitarywest.com.

The TRICARE program is ultimately overseen by the TRICARE Management Authority of the United States Department of Defense:

TRICARE Management Activity

7700 Arlington Blvd., Suite 5101 Falls Church, VA 22041-5101 www.tricare.mil

The website for the Minnesota National Guard contains additional information about TRICARE services for Guardsmen and their families regarding enrollment, coverage levels, costs, transitional coverage and other health care issues—www.minnesotanationalguard.org.

TRICARE Programs

The various coverage options through the TRICARE program maintain different eligibility and enrollment requirements. Specific coverage questions should be addressed directly to TRICARE.

Resources -

The following agencies may provide helpful assistance you in matters pertaining to veterans and/or service members:

Office of the Minnesota Attorney General Veterans Assistance Unit

1400 Bremer Tower, 445 Minnesota Street St. Paul, MN 55101 651-296-3353 800-657-3787 TTY: 651-297-7206

TTY: 800-366-4812 www.ag.state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs

State Veterans Service Building 20 West 12th Street, Room 206-C St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-2006 651-296-2562 www.mn.gov/mdva

United States Department of Veteran's Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration

St. Paul Regional Office 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling St. Paul, MN 55111 800-827-1000 www.va.gov

VISN 23: VA Midwest Healthcare Network ———

VA Health Care System

Minneapolis VA Medical Center

One Veterans Drive Minneapolis, MN 55417 612-725-2000 or 866-414-5058

St. Cloud VA Medical Center

4801 Veterans Drive St. Cloud, MN 56303 320-252-1670 or 800-247-1739

Vet Centers

Brooklyn Park Vet Center

7001 78th Avenue N., Suite 300 Brooklyn Park, MN 55445 763-503-2220 or 877-927-8387

Duluth Vet Center

4402 Haines Road Duluth, MN 55802 218-722-8654 or 877-927-8387

St. Paul Vet Center

550 County Road D, Suite 10 New Brighton, MN 55112 651-644-4022 or 877-927-8387 State and federal agencies may be able to assist veterans in obtaining benefits.

There are many clinics throughout the state that specialize in treating veterans.

Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Max. J. Bielke

VA Outpatient Clinic

515 22nd Avenue East Alexandria, MN 56308 320-759-2640

Bemidji VA Outpatient Clinic

705 5th Street N.W., Suite B Bemidji, MN 56601 218-755-6360

Brainerd VA Outpatient Clinic

722 N.W. 7th Street Brainerd, MN 56401 218-855-1115

Fergus Falls VA Outpatient Clinic

Veterans Home 1839 North Park Street Fergus Falls, MN 56537 218-739-1400

Hibbing VA Clinic

990 West 41st Street, Suite 5 Hibbing, MN 55746 218-263-1400

Mankato VA Clinic

1961 Premier Drive, Suite 330 Mankato, MN 56001 507-387-2939

Maplewood VA Clinic

1725 Legacy Parkway, Suite 100 Maplewood, MN 55109 651-290-3040

Montevideo VA Outpatient Clinic

1025 North 13th Street Montevideo, MN 56265 320-225-5420

Northwest Metro VA Clinic

7545 Veterans Drive Ramsey, MN 55303 612-467-1100

Rochester VA Clinic

3900 55th Street NW Rochester, MN 55901 507-252-0885

South Central VA Clinic

(St. James)

1212 Heckman Court Saint James, MN 56081 507-375-9670

TRICARE -

Regional Office West

800-558-1746 www.tricare.mil

TRICARE Service Center

2626 E. 82nd Street, Suite 145 Bloomington, MN 55425

General Resources —

Minnesota AMVETS

20 12th Street West, Room 302St. Paul, MN 55155651-293-1212

www.mn-amvets.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Department of Minnesota B5 Veterans Service Building 20 12th Street West St. Paul, MN 55155 651-291-1757 www.vfw.state.mn.us

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota

State Veterans Service Building 20 12th Street, 3rd Floor St. Paul, MN 55155 651-291-1212 or 888-317-2291 www.davmn.org

Vietnam Veterans of America

8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100 Silver Spring, MD 20910 800-882-1316 www.vva.org

American Legion

National Headquarters
Indianapolis Office
700 North Pennsylvania St.,
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-630-1200
www.legion.org

National Organization of Veterans

Advocates

1425 K Street NW, Suite 350 Washington DC, 20005 202-587-5708 www.vetadvocates.org

Minnesota Veterans Homes Central Office

5101 Minnehaha Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55417 612-548-5959 www.mn.gov/mdva/homes

Minnesota Veterans Home -

Minneapolis

5101 Minnehaha Ave. S.Minneapolis, MN 55417612-548-5700 or 877-838-6757

Minnesota Veterans Home -Hastings

1200 E. 18th St. Hastings, MN 55033 651-539-2400 or 877-838-3803

Minnesota Veterans Home -

Silver Bay

45 Banks Blvd. Silver Bay, MN 55614 218-353-8700 or 877-729-8387

Minnesota Veterans Home -

Luverne

1300 North Kniss Ave. Luverne, MN 56156 507-283-1100 or 877-588-8387

Minnesota Veterans Home -Fergus Falls

1821 N. Park St. Fergus Falls, MN 56537 218-736-0400 or 877-838-4633

U.S. Army

Judge Advocate General

www.jagcnet.army.mil

U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General

www.jag.navy.mil

U.S. Marines

Judge Advocate General

www.hqmc.marines.mil/sja

U.S. Air Force

Judge Advocate General

www.afjag.af.mil

U.S. Coast Guard

Judge Advocate General

www.uscg.mil/legal

Minnesota National Guard

www.minnesotanationalguard.org

Many organizations are available to assist veterans in a variety of matters.

VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS Several agencies can help veterans find employment after returning from duty.

Employment Resources

United States Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service Division

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training 200 Constitution Avenue, NW,

Room S-1325

Washington, D.C. 20210

866-4-USA-DOL

TTY: 877-487-2365

www.dol.gov/vets

Veterans' Employment and

Training Service

1st Bank Building

332 Minnesota Street, Suite W1372

St. Paul, MN 55101

651-259-7511

651-259-7512

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

4800 Mark Center Drive,

Suite 03E25

Alexandria, VA 22350-1200

800-336-4590

www.esgr.mil

Guard Family Assistance Centers -

Bemidji Family Assistance Center

1430 23rd St. NW Bemidji, MN 56601 651-282-4031

tabitha.d.steinmetz.ctr@mail.mil

Brooklyn Park Family

Assistance Center

5500 85th Ave. N.

Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

651-282-4055

jonell.m.wilson.ctr@mail.mil

Camp Ripley Family

Assistance Center

Camp Ripley Building 6-76

15000 Highway 115

Little Falls, MN 56345

320-616-3117

tami.l.klucas.ctr@mail.mil

Detroit Lakes Family

Assistance Center

915 Lake Ave

Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

218-844-1721

mark.j.sjostrom.ctr@mail.mil

Duluth Family Assistance Center

4015 Airpark Blvd. Duluth, MN 55811

218-723-4852

nadine.r.wells.ctr@mail.mil

Hibbing Family Assistance Center

2310 Brooklyn Drive

Hibbing, MN 55746

218-723-4852

nadine.r.wells.ctr@mail.mil

Mankato Family Assistance Center

100 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

Mankato, MN 56001

651-268-8413

patrick.j.corrow.ctr@mail.mil

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Marshall Family

Assistance Center

500 Timmerman Drive Marshall, MN 56258

651-268-8475

jeffry.l.gay2.ctr@mail.mil

Rochester Family

Assistance Center

1715 Marion Road SE

Rochester, MN 55904

651-268-8587

patrick.j.corrow.ctr@mail.mil

Staffed one day a week on

Thursdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Rosemount Family

Assistance Center

13865 S. Robert Trail

Rosemount, MN 55068 651-282-4748 or 651-282-4749

christina.r.rost.ctr@mail.mil - or -

vernon.m.traux4.ctr@mail.mil

Air National Guard & Air Force Reserve —

Air National Guard -

133rd Airlift Wing

631 Minuteman Drive

Saint Paul, MN 55111

Air National Guard -

148th Fighter Wing

4680 Viper Street

Duluth, MN 55811

218-788-7833

jennifer.kuhlman@ang.af.mil

Air Force Reserve -934th Airlift Wing

760 Military Highway

Minneapolis, MN 55450

800-231-3517

family.support.msp@us.af.mil

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans —

Minnesota Assistance Council

for Veterans - Metro

One Veterans Drive

MVAHCS Bldg. 47

Minneapolis 55417

612-726-1327

www.mac-v.org

Minnesota Assistance Council

for Veterans - Mankato

Mankato, MN 56001

507-345-8258

Minnesota Assistance Council

for Veterans - Duluth

5209 Ramsey St.

Duluth, MN 55807

218-722-8763

724 Madison Avenue

The Minnesota **Assistance Council** for Veterans can help veterans and their families find housing.

> **VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS**

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

1st National Bank Bldg. 332 Minnesota St. Suite E200

St. Paul 55101

651-259-7114 or 800-657-3858

www.mn.gov/deed

Minnesota Military Appreciation

Fund

P.O. Box 2070

3300 IDS Center 80 South 8th St.

Minneapolis 55402

877-668-4269

www.thankmntroops.org

Minnesota Department of Revenue

600 North Robert St. Saint Paul, MN 55101

651-296-3781

County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) ——

CVSOs are a point of contact for veterans and their families who seek assistance with

local, state, and federal

veterans benefits.

AITKIN

Courthouse

217 2nd Street. N.W., Room 130

Aitkin, MN 56431

218-927-7320 or 888-404-7320

penny.harms@co.aitkin.mn.us

ANOKA

Government Center, Room 216

2100 3rd Avenue

Anoka, MN 55303-5034

763-323-5290

john.kriesel@co.anoka.mn.us

BECKER

915 Lake Avenue

Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-3403

218-846-7312 or 888-260-0580

llbrook@co.becker.mn.us

BELTRAMI

Vets Service Office

616 America Avenue NW, Suite 140

Bemidji, MN 56601

218-333-4177

campbell.allison@co.beltrami.mn.us

BENTON

Courthouse

P.O. Box 129

Foley, MN 56329

320-968-5044

gfiedler@co.benton.mn.us

BIG STONE

County Courthouse

11 2nd Street SE

Ortonville, MN 56278

320-839-6398

dan m@co.big-stone.mn.us

BLUE EARTH

County Government Center

410 South 5th St., P.O. Box 8608

Mankato, MN 56002-8608

507-304-4246

gary.evenson@blueearthcountymn.

gov

BROWN

Brown County Courthouse

14 S. State Street, P.O. Box 248

New Ulm, MN 56073-0248

507-233-6636

greg.peterson@co.brown.mn.us

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL

CARLTON

Veterans Services
14 North 11th Street Suite 120
Carlton, MN 55718
218-878-3296
duane.brownie@co.carlton.mn.us

CARVER

Veterans Service Office 555 West 1st. Street Waconia, MN 55387 952-442-2323 dtengwall@co.carver.mn.us

CASS

218 Washburn Avenue East, P. O. Box 51 Backus, MN 56435 218-947-7531

CHIPPEWA

Courthouse 629 N. 11th Street, Suite 1 Montevideo, MN 56265 320-269-6419 tkolhei@co.chippewa.mn.us

CHISAGO

Chisago County Veterans Services 313 North Main, Room 239 Center City, MN 55012 651-213-5680 aabudde@co.chisago.mn.us

CLAY

Courthouse 715 11 St. North, Suite 103 Moorhead, MN 56560-2071 218-299-5041 tom.figliuzzi@co.clay.mn.us

CLEARWATER

Courthouse
213 Main Ave North, Dept. 105
Bagley, MN 56621
218-694-6618
CVSO Cell: 218-556-5340
harry.hutchens@co.clearwater.mn.us

COOK

411 West Second Street Grand Marais, MN 55604 218-387-3639 veteran.services@co.cook.mn.us

COTTONWOOD

P.O. Box 201 Windom, MN 56101 507-831-5522 todd.dibble@co.cottonwood.mn.us

CROW WING

Community Service Building 204 Laurel Street, Suite 14 Brainerd, MN 56401-3572 218-824-1058 bob.nelson@crowwing.us

DAKOTA

Dakota County Veterans
Services Office
One Mendota Road West, Suite 420
West. St. Paul, MN 55118-5601
651-554-5601
lisa.thomas@co.dakota.mn.us

DODGE

22 6th Street E., Dept. 121 Mantorville, MN 55955-2260 507-635-6140 todd.nelson@co.dodge.mn.us The Minnesota County
Veteran Service Officers
(CVSO) were established
in 1943 by the state
legislature. By statute,
each county in the state
shall employ a CVSO to
assist veterans and their
family members.

VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

CVSOs disseminate information on veterans benefits and assists in applications for State and Federal Benefits.

DOUGLAS

806 Fillmore St. Alexandria, MN 56308 320-762-3883 joshb@co.douglas.mn.us

FARIBAULT

County Office Building 412 N. Nicollet, P.O. Box 130 Blue Earth, MN 56013 507-526-6268 dave.hanson@co.faribault.mn.us

FILLMORE

902 Houston Street NW, Suite 4 Preston, MN 55965 507-765-4937 jmarquardt@co.fillmore.mn.us

FREEBORN

Courthouse
411 S. Broadway, P.O. Box 1147
Albert Lea, MN 56007-1147
507-377-5184
rondal.reule@co.freeborn.mn.us

GOODHUE

Government Center

509 W. 5th Street, Rm. 101 Red Wing, MN 55066-2540 651-385-3256 robby.robinson@co.goodhue.mn.us

GRANT

P.O. Box 29 Elbow Lake, MN 56531 218-685-8324 joseph.hjelmstad@co.grant.mn.us

HENNEPIN

Government Center 300 S. 6th Street SW, First Level Minneapolis, MN 55487-0013 612-348-3300 milton.schoen@co.hennepin.mn.us

HOUSTON

Courthouse
611 Vista Drive
Caledonia, MN 55921
507-725-5805, ext. 2205 or 2332
robert.gross@co.houston.mn.us

HUBBARD

Courthouse Veterans Service Office 201 Fair Ave Park Rapids, MN 56470 218-732-3561 gremus@co.hubbard.mn.us

ISANTI

Government Center 555 18th Avenue SW Cambridge, MN 55008 763-689-3591 jim.rostberg@co.isanti.mn.us

ITASCA

Itasca County Veterans Office 410 2nd Avenue NE Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600 218-327-2858 hugh.quinn@co.itasca.mn.us

JACKSON

County Resource Center 405 4th Street Jackson, MN 56143 507-847-4774 jeff.johnson@co.jackson.mn.us

KANABEC

18 North Vine, Suite 104 Mora, MN 55051 320-679-6380 lowell.sedlacek@co.kanabec.mn.us

KANDIYOHI

2200 23rd Street NE, Suite 2080 Willmar, MN 56201 320-231-6226 trish.appledorn@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

KITTSON

410 5th Street S., Suite 210 Hallock, MN 56728 218-843-2198 bcameron@co.kittson.mn.us

KOOCHICHING

Courthouse 715 4th Street International Falls, MN 56649 (218) 283-1179 candance.ritch@co.koochiching. mn.us

LAC QUI PARLE

Courthouse 600 6th Street, Suite 3 Madison, MN 56256 320-598-3445 josh.beninga@lqpco.com

LAKE

Courthouse 616 3rd Avenue Two Harbors, MN 55616 218-834-8326 vince.sando@co.lake.mn.us

LAKE OF THE WOODS

P.O. Box 1255 Baudette, MN 56623 218-634-2219 rickrone@mncable.net

LE SUEUR

Veterans Service 88 South Park Avenue LeCenter, MN 56057 507-357-8279 jgolgart@co.le-sueur.mn.us

LINCOLN

319 North Rebecca Street Ivanhoe, MN 56142 507-215-3159 or 507-694-1529 dkuss@co.lincoln.mn.us

LYON

Veteran Service 607 West Main Street Marshall, MN 56258 507-537-6729 veterans@co.lyon.mn.us

MAHNOMEN

County Hwy. Building
P.O. Box 305
Mahnomen, MN 56557
218-935-5062
john.nelson@co.mahnomen.mn.us

MARSHALL - EAST

12347 300th St. NE Newfolden, MN 56738 218-449-2395 mcva@wiktel.com

MARSHALL - WEST

208 East Colvin Ave., Suite 194 Warren, MN 56762 218-745-4303 brett.brandon@co.marshall.mn.us CVSOs collaborate
with the United States
Department of Veterans
Affairs, Minnesota
Department of Veterans
Affairs, and Veterans
Service Organizations
in securing benefits for
veterans.

VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS CVSOs can help you obtain relevant military records and discharge documents.

MARTIN

115 W. First Street, Suite 306 Fairmont, MN 56031-1717 507-238-3220 doug.landsteiner@co.martin.mn.us

MCLEOD

McLeod County Veterans Services 2381 Hennepin Avenue North Glencoe, MN 55336 320-864-1268 james.lauer@co.mcleod.mn.us

MEEKER

Family Services Center 114 N. Holcombe Ave., Suite 120 Litchfield, MN 55355-2273 320-693-5445 donald.dufner@co.meeker.mn.us

MILLE LACS

Veterans Service Office 525 2nd Street SE Milaca, MN 56353 320-983-8208 michael.bina@co.mille-lacs.mn.us

MORRISON

Courthouse
213 SE 1st Avenue
Little Falls, MN 56345
320-632-0290
kathym@co.morrison.mn.us

MOWER

Veterans Services Office 201 First Street NE Austin, MN 55912 507-434-2712 waynem@co.mower.mn.us

MURRAY

Government Center
P.O. Box 57
Slayton, MN 56172
507-836-6148 ext. 154
jreinert@co.murray.mn.us

NICOLLET

Nicollet Co. Government Center 501 S. Minnesota Ave. St. Peter, MN 56082-2533 507-934-7870 or 507-934-7871 cwolf@co.nicollet.mn.us

NOBLES

County Government Center P.O. Box 757 Worthington, MN 56187 507-295-5292 bbrockberg@co.nobles.mn.us

NORMAN

Courthouse
16 E. 3rd Avenue, Room 102
Ada, MN 56510
218-784-5494
john.rosenberger@co.norman.mn.us

OLMSTED

Government Center 2100 Campus Drive SE, Suite 200 Rochester, MN 55904-3711 507-328-6355 doyle.neil@co.olmsted.mn.us

OTTER TAIL

Veterans Service Office 505 S. Court Street, Suite 2 Fergus Falls, MN 56537 218-998-8605 or 218-385-5540 ckampa@co.ottertail.mn.us

PENNINGTON

Courthouse, 1st Floor P.O. Box 616 Thief River Falls, MN 56701 218-683-7034 sjstone@co.pennington.mn.us

PINE

Pine County Veterans Services 1602 Hwy 23 North Sandstone, MN 55072 320-216-4250 or 320-216-4253

PIPESTONE

Courthouse 811 5th Street SE Pipestone, MN 56164 507-825-6771 marc.hall@co.pipestone.mn.us

POLK

612 N. Broadway, Suite 219 Crookston, MN 56716-1452 218-281-3066 les.goodwin@co.polk.mn.us

POPE

Courthouse
130 East Minnesota Avenue
Suite 125
Glenwood, MN 56334-1628
320-634-5734
hugh.reimers@co.pope.mn.us

RAMSEY

90 West Plato Blvd., Suite 210 St. Paul, MN 55107 651-266-2545 maria.wetherall@co.ramsey.mn.us

Ramsey County Veterans Services

RED LAKE

25855 State Hwy 32 South Red Lake Falls, MN 56750 218-253-4249 CVSO Cell: 218-689-8587 kellefsoncvso@hotmail.com

REDWOOD

Redwood County
Government Center
403 S. Mill, P.O. Box 130
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
507-637-4034
martin c@co.redwood.mn.us

RENVILLE

Renville County Veterans Services 105 South 5th Street, Room 247 Olivia, MN 56277 320-523-3763 lee s@co.renville.mn.us

RICE

Government Center 320 3rd Street NW, Suite 7 Faribault, MN 55021 507-332-6117 trmcbroom@co.rice.mn.us

ROCK

Courthouse 204 E. Brown, P.O. Box 509 Luverne, MN 56156 507-283-5061 dave.haugom@co.rock.mn.us

ROSEAU

Courthouse 606 5th Ave. SW, Room 120 Roseau, MN 56751 218-463-3308 martin.howes@co.roseau.mn.us Your local CVSO can assist you with enrolling in the VA Healthcare system and filing VA disability claims.

> VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

If you move to a new county, contact your CVSO in order to have your records moved, ensuring a smooth transition of service.

SCOTT

Government Center 200 Fourth Avenue W., Rm. 212 Shakopee, MN 55379-1220 952-496-8176 jbrua@co.scott.mn.us

SHERBURNE

County Government Center 13880 Business Center Drive Elk River, MN 55330 763-765-3100 eugene.graff@co.sherburne.mn.us

SIBLEY

Veteran Service Office 111 8th Street, P.O. Box 1061 Gaylord, MN 55334 507-237-4090 lisak@co.sibley.mn.us

ST. LOUIS - DULUTH

405 E. Superior Street, Suite 130 Duluth, MN 55802 218-725-5285 rodriguezs@stlouiscountymn.gov

ST. LOUIS - ELY

320 Miners Drive East, Room 103 Ely, MN 55731-1402 218-365-8203 langr@stlouiscountymn.gov

ST. LOUIS - HIBBING

Courthouse Annex 1814 East 14th Avenue Hibbing, MN 55746 218-262-6090 beanw@stlouiscountymn.gov

ST. LOUIS - VIRGINIA

Veterans Service Office 307 S. 1st Street, Suite 110 Virginia, MN 55792 218-749-7110 rulifsonb@stlouiscountymn.gov

STEARNS - MELROSE

Veterans Service Office 114 South 1st Avenue West Melrose, MN 56352 320-256-1435 ervin.karash@co.stearns.mn.us

STEARNS - ST. CLOUD

Veterans Service Office 3301 County Road 138 Waite Park, MN 56387 320-656-6176 terry.ferdinandt@co.stearns.mn.us

STEELE

County Admin. Center 630 Florence Ave., Box 890 Owatonna, MN 55060 507-444-7461 or 507-444-7460 rene.gilormini@co.steele.mn.us

STEVENS

Stevens County Veterans
Service Office
400 Colorado Avenue, Suite 101
Morris, MN 56267
320-208-6555
vso@co.stevens.mn.us

SWIFT

Courthouse
P.O. Box 286
Benson, MN 56215
320-842-5271
dave.barrett@co.swift.mn.us

TODD

347 Central Avenue, Suite 5 Long Prairie, MN 56347 320-732-4419 or 320-732-4418 pete.berscheit@co.todd.mn.us

TRAVERSE

Courthouse
P.O. Box 802
Wheaton, MN 56296
320-422-7726
dustin.kinelberger@co.traverse.
mn.us

WABASHA

Wabasha County Criminal Justice Center 848 17th St. E, Suite 7 Wabasha, MN 55981 651-565-3864 npelz@co.wabasha.mn.us

WADENA

Courthouse, Room 139
415 Jefferson St. S.
Wadena, MN 56482
218-631-7617
david.anderson@co.wadena.mn.us

WASECA

Veterans Service Office 307 North State St. Waseca, MN 56093 507-835-0680 dennis.dinneen@co.waseca.mn.us

WASHINGTON

14949 62nd Street, P.O. Box 30 Stillwater, MN 55082 651-430-6895 ryan.carufel@co.washington.mn.us

WATONWAN

Courthouse 108 8th St. South, Suite 3 St. James, MN 56081 507-375-1254 vso@co.watonwan.mn.us

WILKIN

Courthouse, Room 103
P.O. Box 177
Breckenridge, MN 56520
218-643-7134
rverhaagen@co.wilkin.mn.us

WINONA

202 West Third Street Winona, MN 55987 507-457-6455 jobieglo@co.winona.mn.us

WRIGHT

10 2nd Street NW, Room C-114 Buffalo, MN 55313-1184 763-682-7325 or 763-682-7326 or 763-682-7327 launette.figlizzi@co.wright.mn.us

YELLOW MEDICINE

Courthouse 1593 11th Ave., Room 260 Granite Falls, MN 56241 320-313-3037 CVSO Phone: 320-313-3038 michelle.gatz@co.ym.mn.gov



VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

Consumer Questions or Complaints

The Minnesota Attorney General's Office answers questions regarding numerous consumer issues. The Attorney General's Office also provides assistance in resolving disputes between Minnesota consumers and businesses and uses information from consumers to enforce the state's civil laws. We welcome your calls!

If you have a consumer complaint, you may contact the Attorney General's Office in writing:

Minnesota Attorney General's Office 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400 St. Paul, MN 55101 You can also receive direct assistance from a consumer specialist by calling:

651-296-3353 or 800-657-3787 TTY: 651-297-7206 or TTY: 800-366-4812 (TTY numbers are for callers using teletypewriter devices.)

Additional Publications

Additional consumer publications are available from the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. Contact us to receive copies or preview the publications on our website at www.ag.state.mn.us.

- Car Handbook
- Home Building and Remodeling
- Conciliation Court
- Credit Handbook
- Guarding Your Privacy: Tips to Prevent Identity Theft
- Home Buyer's Handbook
- Home Seller's Handbook
- Landlords and Tenants:
 Rights and Responsibilities
- Managing Your Health Care
- Manufactured Home Parks Handbook
- Minnesota's Car Laws
- Phone Handbook
- Probate and Planning: A Guide to Planning for the Future
- Seniors' Legal Rights
- Veterans and Service Members
- Other Consumer Bulletins

445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400, St. Paul, MN 55101 651-296-3353 • 800-657-3787 • TTY: 651-297-7206 • TTY: 800-366-4812