

Eligibility for VA Benefits

Basic eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits depends upon the duration of the service and the character of discharge or separation. VA looks at the “character of discharge” to determine whether a person meets the basic eligibility requirements for receipt of VA benefits under Title 38 of the United States Code. Any discharge under honorable conditions satisfies the character of discharge re-requirement for basic eligibility for VA benefits. Certain types of discharges may limit basic eligibility for VA benefits. Other types of discharges require VBA to process an adjudication in re-viewing the character of discharge. This adjudication determines basic eligibility for VA benefits.

Resource Guide

For a list of local community resources for Veterans who have received an other than honorable (OTH) discharge and need assistance go to: https://www.sandiego.va.gov/patients/other_than_honorable.asp
To begin the VBA adjudication process go to: San Diego VA Medical Center, 3350 La Jolla Village Drive, Room 1587, San Diego, CA 92161.

Vet Centers offering readjustment counseling, bereavement and MST services:

San Diego Vet Center
2790 Truxton Road, Suite 130
San Diego, CA 92106
858-642-1500

San Marcos Vet Center
One Civic Center Drive, Suite 140
San Marcos, CA 92069
760-744-6914

Chula Vista Vet Center
180 Otay Lakes Road, Suite 108
Bonita, CA 91902-2439
877-618-6534 or 877-927-8387

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

VA San Diego
Healthcare System

Department of Veterans Affairs



***Veteran Affairs and
Community Resources
for those with an
Other Than Honorable
Discharge***

***VA San Diego
Healthcare System***

For information, please contact:

Health Benefits and Enrollment
3350 La Jolla Village Dr.
San Diego, CA 92161

858-552-7523

Resource Information for Veterans with Other Than Honorable Discharge



Did you know?

Other than Honorable (OTH) discharges from Active Duty may or may not be disqualifying for purposes of general VA benefit eligibility or VA health benefits eligibility.

In order to determine if the Veteran is eligible for VA healthcare, a VA Form 7131, Exchange of Beneficiary Information and Request for Administrative and Adjudicative Action needs to be submitted.

To do so, please call VBA at:
800-827-1000

or visit:

San Diego VA Medical Center
Health Benefits and Enrollment
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
Room 1587
San Diego, CA 92161.
858-552-7523

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Claims for VA benefits and Character of Discharge visit the VA website at:

http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/COD_Factsheet.pdf

Applying for benefits and your Character of Discharge

Generally, in order to receive VA benefits and services, the Veteran's character of discharge or service must be under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general). However, individuals receiving undesirable, bad conduct, and other types of dishonorable discharges may qualify for VA benefits depending on a determination made by VA.

For more information visit the VA website at:

http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/character_of_discharge.asp

Housing Assistance Resource

Those with an OTH who are homeless may be eligible for Grant and Per Diem Housing Services. If the Veteran has an OTH and is seeking housing assistance, please call the VA National Call Center for Homeless Veterans: 877-424-3838.

Mental Health

For emergencies:

Call 9-1-1 or Present to the VA Emergency Department for Psychiatric Emergencies

Veterans Crisis Hotline - 800-273-8255 (Press 1) - 24/7 confidential support for Veterans in crisis and families and friends.

Courage to Call – Veterans Hotline - 877-698-7838 - 24/7 helpline with links to community resources throughout San Diego

Access and Crisis Line - 888-724-7240 - 24/7 crisis and information line, referrals to community mental health clinic

**OTH Workgroup**