

Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance For Family Caregivers

Revocation and Discharge Fact Sheet



There are multiple reasons for which an eligible Veteran and/or Family Caregiver(s) may be revoked or discharged from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). These reasons are explained in this fact sheet. Based on the reason for the revocation or discharge, PCAFC participants may receive 60-day advanced notice and/or a period of extended benefits.



REVOCATION:

For Cause

A Family Caregiver's designation will be revoked For Cause by VA if any of the following are determined:

- Family Caregiver or Veteran committed fraud.
- Family Caregiver neglected, abused or exploited the Veteran.
- Personal safety issues exist for the Veteran that the Family Caregiver is unable or unwilling to mitigate.
- Family Caregiver is unwilling to provide personal care services to the Veteran or in the case of the Family Caregiver's temporary absence or incapacitation, fails to ensure (if able) the provision of personal care services to the Veteran.

Effective Date – The effective date of a revocation For Cause is the date upon which the revocation criteria is known to have been met. A revocation For Cause takes effect immediately, and advanced notice is not provided.

In the case of revocation due to fraud, the effective date of the revocation is the date the fraud began. If VA cannot identify when the fraud began, the date of revocation will be the earliest date that the fraud is known by VA to have been committed, and no later than the date on which VA identifies that fraud was committed. If VA determines that fraud was committed as part of the joint application, then the effective date would be the date the joint application was submitted.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver's designation is revoked For Cause, there are no extended benefits.

Non-Compliance

A Family Caregiver's designation will be revoked when the eligible Veteran or the Family Caregiver are non-compliant with program requirements. Non-compliance means:

- Personal care services are being simultaneously and regularly provided to the Veteran by or through others.
- Veteran is not receiving care at home.
- Veteran is not receiving ongoing care from a primary care team.
- Veteran or Family Caregiver are not participating in wellness contacts.
- Veteran or Family Caregiver are not participating in reassessments.
- Family Caregiver is not a family member and does not live with Veteran.
- Veteran no longer lives in a State.
- Family Caregiver is incapable of providing personal care services.

Effective Date – A Veteran and Family Caregiver are provided 60-day advanced notice prior to the revocation taking effect. During the 60-day advanced notice, a Veteran and Family Caregiver can take the necessary steps or corrective action and become compliant prior to revocation. When such corrective action takes place, the decision to revoke is reversed.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver’s designation is revoked due to non-compliance, there are no extended benefits.

VA Error

A Family Caregiver’s designation will be revoked if the Family Caregiver’s approval and designations were the result of an erroneous eligibility determination by VA.

Effective Date – In the case of revocation for VA error, the revocation takes effect as of the date the error was made. If VA cannot identify when the error was made, the date of revocation will be the earliest date the error is known by VA to have occurred, and no later than the date on which VA identifies that the error occurred.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver’s designation is revoked for VA error, benefits continue for 60 days after the date of revocation, and such benefits will be considered an overpayment. VA will seek to recover overpayment of benefits. A Family Caregiver may opt-out of extended benefits and should contact a member of the Caregiver Support Program (CSP) Team for more information.

DISCHARGE:

Request of the Veteran or Family Caregiver.

A Family Caregiver may be discharged upon their own request or at the request of the Veteran.

Effective Date – A Veteran or Family Caregiver may request this discharge verbally or in writing and must include the effective discharge date. This may be a present or future date provided by the Family Caregiver or Veteran. If the request does not provide a present or future date of discharge, VA will ask the Family Caregiver or Veteran to provide it and if unable to obtain this date, discharge will be effective as of the date of the request.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver is discharged at the request of the Veteran or Family Caregiver, caregiver benefits continue for 30 days after the date of discharge.

Request of the Family Caregiver due to Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence

A Family Caregiver may be discharged upon their own request, due to Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV) perpetrated by the Veteran against the Family Caregiver.

Effective Date – A Family Caregiver may request this discharge verbally or in writing and must include the effective discharge date. This may be a present or future date provided by the Family Caregiver. If the request does not provide a present or future date of discharge, VA will ask the Family Caregiver to provide it and if unable to obtain this date, discharge will be effective as of the date of the request.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver requests discharge due to Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence, caregiver benefits continue for 90 days after the date of discharge when any of the following can be established: (1) The issuance of a protective order, to include interim, temporary or final protective orders, to protect the Family Caregiver from DV or IPV perpetrated by the eligible Veteran; (2) A police report indicating DV or IPV perpetrated by the eligible Veteran against the Family Caregiver or a record of an arrest related to DV or IPV perpetrated by the eligible Veteran against the Family Caregiver; or (3) Documentation of disclosure of DV or IPV perpetrated by the eligible Veteran against the Family Caregiver to a treating provider (e.g., physician, dentist,

psychologist, rehabilitation therapist) of the eligible Veteran or Family Caregiver, Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) Coordinator, therapist or counselor.

Institutionalization of the Veteran

A Family Caregiver is discharged when a Veteran is institutionalized in a setting outside the home residence to include a hospital, rehabilitation facility, jail, prison, assisted living facility, medical foster home, nursing home or other similar setting for a period of 90 days or more or is expected to be institutionalized for 90 days or more.

Effective Date – In the case of discharge due to institutionalization of the Veteran, the effective date is the date institutionalization begins, if it is determined that the Veteran is expected to be institutionalized for a period of 90 days or more, or the 90th day of institutionalization, whichever is the earliest.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver is discharged due to the Veteran's institutionalization, caregiver benefits continue for 90 days after the date of discharge.

Institutionalization of the Family Caregiver

A Family Caregiver is discharged when the Family Caregiver is institutionalized in a setting outside the home residence to include a hospital, rehabilitation facility, jail, prison, assisted living facility, medical foster home, nursing home or other similar setting for a period of 90 days or more, or is expected to be institutionalized for 90 days or more.

Effective Date – In the case of discharge due to institutionalization of the Family Caregiver, the effective date is the date institutionalization begins, if it is determined that the Family Caregiver is expected to be institutionalized 90 days or more, or on the 90th day of institutionalization, whichever is earlier.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver is discharged due to institutionalization, caregiver benefits continue for 90 days after the date of discharge.

Death of Veteran

A Family Caregiver is discharged when the Veteran participating in the PCAFC dies. VA must receive notification of the Veteran's death as soon as possible, but not later than 30 days following the death of a Veteran.

Effective Date – The discharge is effective on the date of the Veteran's death.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver is discharged due to the Veteran's death, caregiver benefits continue for 90 days after the date of discharge.

Death of Family Caregiver

A Family Caregiver is discharged in the event of their death. VA must receive notification of the Family Caregiver's death as soon as possible, but not later than 30 days following the death of a Family Caregiver.

Effective Date – The discharge is effective on the date of the Family Caregiver's death.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver is discharged due to death, there are no extended benefits.

Based on Assessment of the Eligible Veteran

A Family Caregiver is discharged when the Veteran no longer meets the requirements of the PCAFC because of improvements in the eligible Veteran's condition or otherwise. This can be due to one or more of the following:

- There is a change in the eligible Veteran's Service Connection rating such that he/she no longer meets criteria for a serious injury.

- Participation is determined to no longer be in the Veteran's best interest.
- The Veteran is determined to no longer need personal care services.

Effective Date – The Veteran and Family Caregiver are provided a 60-day advanced notice prior to the discharge taking effect.

Benefit End Date – When a Family Caregiver is discharged based on the Veteran no longer meeting the requirements of the PCAFC, caregiver benefits continue for 90 days.

Overpayments

Overpayment occurs when a payment is made by VA to a Primary Family Caregiver for more than the amount due, to which the Primary Family Caregiver was not entitled to, or when the payment was made in error. An overpayment is subject to collection action pursuant to the Federal Claims Collection Standards.

If an overpayment is made, there are several options available for the return of this overpayment. In the event of an overpayment, a representative from VA will notify the Primary Family Caregiver with the various options and instructions on how to proceed.

Right to Appeal

Individuals who disagree with a PCAFC decision, including a revocation or discharge determination, have the right to request further review or appeal of the decision. For more information about available options, please contact the Caregiver Support Line at (855) 260-3274 or visit www.caregiver.va.gov.


Additional Services and Supports That May be Available

PCAFC is just one way that VA supports caregivers of Veterans. Caregivers may be able to participate in the Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS) which includes online and in-person training and education, coaching, skills training, peer support, resources and referrals, and telephone support through VA's Caregiver Support Line. An application is not required.

For additional information or questions regarding information in this fact sheet, please contact the facility Caregiver Support Program Team, visit www.caregiver.va.gov or contact the Caregiver Support Line at (855) 260-3274.

How to Contact your Caregiver Support Program Team

Veterans and caregivers can find their local Caregiver Support Team...

 Calling the Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274 - Toll free

 Using the Caregiver Support Program Team locator tool at :
www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New_CSC_Page.asp

Online application available at: <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/apply-for-caregiver-assistance-form-10-10cg/introduction>