

Spread the Word!

Join the DMVA in raising awareness about scams and exploitation involving veteran benefits

There are nearly 800,000 veterans in Pennsylvania and over half of them are age 60 and older.

Veterans may be eligible for a wide array of benefits from both the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (commonly referred to as the VA). One such benefit is a VA pension.

Unfortunately, there are unscrupulous people who are preying on veterans, particularly older veterans, to profit from their desire to apply for the benefits they earned while defending our country and our freedoms.

The DMVA wants you to know that free and safe assistance is available to help veterans and their beneficiaries apply for veteran benefits, including VA pension. The DMVA asks for your assistance to help raise awareness of this issue in your community. Together we can reduce the likelihood of scams, fraud and exploitation against our veterans and their benefits!

How can you help?

Raise awareness in two simple steps!

[Step 1: Educate yourself and your coworkers with this short presentation on veteran pension poaching, how to recognize it, avoid it, and report it.](#)

[Step 2: Use the toolkit to educate the community.](#)

The [toolkit](#) contains materials in English and Spanish that can be printed or shared electronically as well as social media content. Please feel free to use the materials within the toolkit at your discretion to educate your staff, clients and patients, family, friends, and community.

Find [high-resolution images of all the toolkit materials](#) and get a sneak peek of the materials below!

Wondering if you can co-brand the toolkit materials? While materials cannot be digitally altered, you are welcome to add a label to any of them to explain that you “support DMVA’s efforts” or are “joining forces with DMVA to raise awareness.”

Need some ideas on how you could use the toolkit to raise awareness in your community? We’ve got you covered!

- discuss at staff meetings
- include in agency newsletters or informational packets
- include on closed-circuit messaging such as TVs in waiting rooms

- post in your lobby, waiting rooms or exam rooms
- provide during appointments or care conferences
- post to your agency's website or social media platforms
- distribute during expos or other public events
- send out through your own listservs

Have questions or need more information?

Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/2RPITWP>

Please direct questions regarding this awareness campaign to RA-MVVET-CONNECT@pa.gov.

If your staff would benefit from more information about the systems, resources and programs serving Pennsylvania's military veterans and their families, DMVA would be happy to assist you. Please contact PA VETConnect via email at RA-MVVET-CONNECT@pa.gov.

Toolkit Materials

Download business cards, post cards, and flyers from Dropbox:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cyhd58hafrlgtay/AADluTMHE1oVa_cu4wy3IDega?dl=0

Postcard Front - English	Postcard Back - English
<p>VETERANS: AVOID BEING SCAMMED!</p>  <p>NEVER PAY TO APPLY FOR VETERAN BENEFITS!</p> <p>GET THE ASSISTANCE YOU NEED FOR FREE! Visit: www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect to find your County Office of Veterans Affairs or another Accredited Veteran Services Officer near you!</p> <p>SUSPECT A SCAM? Call 717-783-1944 or email PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov or submit a complaint online at www.attorneygeneral.gov</p>  	<p>VETERANS: AVOID BEING SCAMMED!</p> <p>LEARN ABOUT AND APPLY FOR VETERAN BENEFITS FROM AN ACCREDITED VETERAN SERVICES OFFICER!</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEVER PAY FOR FORMS OR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION • NEVER PAY TO RESTRUCTURE ASSETS IN ORDER TO "QUALIFY" • NEVER PAY FOR THE PROMISE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR A PENSION • NEVER PAY TO RECEIVE A LUMP SUM PAYMENT ON A PENSION 

Postcard Front - Spanish	Postcard Back - Spanish
<p>VETERANOS: ¡EVITEN SER ESTAFADOS!</p>  <p>¡Nunca pague para solicitar beneficios para veteranos!</p> <p>¡OBTENGA LA AYUDA QUE NECESITA DE FORMA GRATUITA! Visita: www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect para encontrar a tu Oficina de Asuntos de Veteranos del Condado u otro oficial acreditado de Servicios para Veteranos cerca de ti!</p> <p>¿Sospechas de una estafa? Llame al 717-783-1944 o envíe un correo electrónico PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov</p>  	<p>VETERANOS: ¡EVITEN SER ESTAFADOS!</p> <p>¡CONOZCA Y SOLICITE BENEFICIOS PARA VETERANOS DE UN OFICIAL DE SERVICIOS PARA VETERANOS ACREDITADO!</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NUNCA PAGUE POR FORMULARIOS NI POR ENVIAR UNA SOLICITUD • NUNCA PAGUE PARA REESTRUCTURAR ACTIVOS CON EL FIN DE "CALIFICAR" • NUNCA PAGUE POR LA PROMESA DE ELEGIBILIDAD PARA UNA PENSIÓN • NUNCA PAGUE PARA RECIBIR UN PAGO DE SUMA GLOBAL DE UNA PENSIÓN 

Business Card Front - English	Business Card Back - English
 <p>DON'T BE SCAMMED. NEVER PAY TO APPLY FOR VETERAN BENEFITS</p> <p>Suspect a scam? Call 717-783-1944 Email PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov Submit a complaint at www.attorneygeneral.gov</p>	<p>VETERANS: AVOID BEING SCAMMED!</p> <p>APPLYING FOR VETERAN BENEFITS? Get the assistance you need for free! Always work with an accredited Veteran Services Officer (VSO). Find your local VSO at www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect</p>  

Business Card Front - Spanish	Business Card Back - Spanish
 <p>QUE NO TE ESTAFEN. NUNCA PAGUES PARA SOLICITAR BENEFICIOS PARA VETERANOS.</p> <p>¿Sospechas de una estafa? Llame al 717-783-1944 Correo electrónico PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov Presente una queja en www.attorneygeneral.gov</p>	<p>VETERANOS: EVITEN SER ESTAFADOS!</p> <p>¿Solicitando beneficios para veteranos? ¡Obtenga la ayuda que necesita de forma gratuita! Trabaje siempre con un Oficial de Servicios para Veteranos (OSV) acreditado. Encuentra tu OSV local en www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect</p>  

Flyer - English	Flyer - Spanish
<p>VETERANS: AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF A PENSION POACHING SCAM!</p> <p>NEVER PAY TO APPLY FOR YOUR VETERAN BENEFITS!</p> <p>WHAT IS VETERAN PENSION POACHING? Veteran pension poaching is when scammers or dishonest financial planners prey on those seeking help to apply for the benefits they have earned through their military service.</p>  <p>HOW CAN YOU HELP VETERANS AVOID PENSION POACHING?</p>  <p>Be sure that a veteran you advocate for always uses assistance from a County Director of Veterans Affairs or another Accredited Veteran Services Officer (VSO) when applying for veteran benefits.</p> <p>FREE, SAFE HELP IS AVAILABLE!</p> <p>A VSO will help explain, complete and submit federal or state veteran benefits applications for free, so veterans should never pay to apply for benefits they earned thanks to service to our nation.</p> <p>Contact information for County Director of Veterans Affairs and other accredited Veteran Services Officers can be found at www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect.</p> <p>SUSPECT VETERAN PENSION POACHING OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO EXPERIENCED IT?</p> <p>Victims of pension poaching should file a report immediately with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office via one of the following:</p> <p>Call 717-783-1944 Email PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov File a complaint online by clicking the "Submit a Complaint" tab from any page of the www.attorneygeneral.gov website.</p> 	<p>VETERANOS: ¡EVITE SER VÍCTIMA DE UNA ESTAFA DE CAZA FURTIVA DE PENSIONES!</p> <p>¡Nunca pagues para solicitar tus beneficios para veteranos!</p> <p>¿QUÉ ES LA CAZA FURTIVA DE PENSIONES DE VETERANOS? La caza furtiva de pensiones de veteranos es cuando los estafadores o planificadores financieros deshonestos se aprovechan de aquellos que buscan ayuda para solicitar los beneficios que han obtenido a través de su servicio militar.</p>  <p>¿Cómo puede ayudar a los veteranos a evitar la caza furtiva de pensiones?</p>  <p>Asegúrese de que un veterano que usted aboga por usar siempre la asistencia de un Director de Asuntos de Veteranos del Condado u otro Oficial acreditado de Servicios veteranos (OSV) al solicitar beneficios para veteranos.</p> <p>¡AYUDA GRATUITA Y SEGURA ESTÁ DISPONIBLE!</p> <p>Un OSV ayudará a explicar, completar y presentar solicitudes de beneficios para veteranos federales o estatales de forma gratuita, por lo que los veteranos nunca deben pagar para solicitar los beneficios que obtuvieron gracias al servicio a nuestra nación.</p> <p>La información de contacto del Director de Asuntos de Veteranos del Condado y otros Oficiales acreditados de Servicios para Veteranos se puede encontrar en www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect</p> <p>¿SOSPECHAS CAZA FURTIVA DE PENSIONES PARA VETERANOS O CONOCE A ALCUIEN QUE LA EXPERIMENTÓ?</p> <p>Las víctimas de la caza furtiva de pensiones deben presentar un informe inmediatamente ante la Oficina del Fiscal General de Pensilvania a través de una de las siguientes:</p> <p>Llame al 717-783-1944 Correo electrónico PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov Presentar una queja en línea haciendo clic en la pestaña "Enviar una queja" desde cualquier página del sitio web de www.attorneygeneral.gov</p>  

Social Media Content

Download social media graphics from Dropbox:

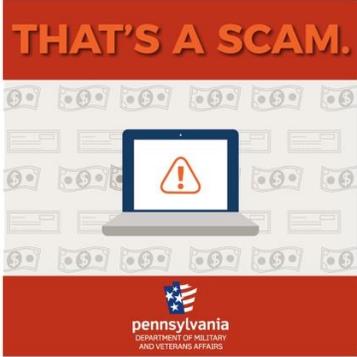
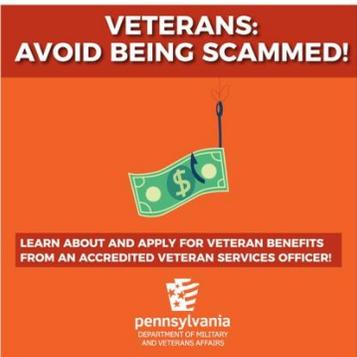
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cyhd58hafriigtay/AADluTMHE1oVa_cu4wy3IDega?dl=0

The Dropbox Folder includes the following sizes:

FB square: 1200x1200

Twitter rectangle: 1200x675

Need another size? Email Steve Witmer at stevwitmer@pa.gov

Graphics	Sample Text
	<p>A reminder to all Pennsylvanians to stay vigilant against pension scams that target veterans. Never pay to apply for benefits. Learn more here: https://bit.ly/2RPITWP</p>
	<p>@padmva wants you to protect yourself and your family members from fraud and exploitation involving veteran benefits! Always use the free and safe assistance of an accredited Veteran Services Officer (VSO). Find your local VSO at www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect</p>
	<p>Suspect Veteran pension poaching or know someone who experienced it? File a report immediately with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Military and Veterans Affairs section by using one of the methods listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Call (717) 783-1944  Email PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov  File a complaint online by following the "Submit a Complaint" link from any page of the www.attorneygeneral.gov website. When choosing this option, use the "consumer form" and check the box indicating that the complainant or immediate family member is a military member or a veteran. For your convenience, this is the direct link to the consumer

**DON'T BE SCAMMED.
NEVER PAY TO APPLY FOR
VETERAN BENEFITS**

Get the assistance you need for free!



Keep alert for scams involving the benefits you've earned through your military service! Veterans and their beneficiaries should never pay:

- For forms or to submit applications
- For a promise of eligibility for a pension
- To restructure assets in order to “qualify” for benefits
- To receive a lump sum payment on a pension

Free and safe assistance is available to help you learn about and apply for veteran benefits. Contact an accredited Veteran Services Officer (VSO) today! Find one near you at www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect