

Department of Veterans Affairs

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(2) The veteran's Chapter 30 delimiting date;

(3) The day after exhaustion of Chapter 30 entitlement; or

(4) The day following the date of a VA determination that failure to approve reelection would prevent the veteran from continuing the rehabilitation program.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3108(f))

(d) *Election or reelection during leave or between periods of instruction*—(1) *Payment at the Chapter 30 rate.* If an otherwise eligible veteran elects payment at the Chapter 30 rate during a period between periods of instruction, the effective date of the election shall be the first day of the next period of instruction.

(2) *Subsistence allowance.* If an otherwise eligible veteran reelects subsistence allowance during leave or between periods of instruction following election of payment at the Chapter 30 rate, the effective date of the change will be the date of the reelection or the beginning of the next period of training, whichever is to the veteran's benefit.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3108(f))

(e) *Effect of Chapter 34 program termination.* (1) Since Chapter 34 benefits are not payable beyond December 31, 1989, any previous election of benefits at that rate is terminated as of that date;

(2) A veteran entitled to chapter 30 benefits based on his or her chapter 34 eligibility as of December 31, 1989, and whose election of chapter 34 rates terminated as of the date under paragraph (e)(1) of this section must, if the individual desires payment at the chapter 30 rate, elect such payment.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1411(a))

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 4284, Jan. 30, 1989, 54 FR 13522, Apr. 4, 1989; 57 FR 57108, Dec. 3, 1992]

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

§ 21.340 Introduction.

(a) *General.* VA may approve leaves of absence under certain conditions. During approved leaves of absence, a veteran in receipt of subsistence allowance shall be considered to be pursuing a rehabilitation program. Leave may

be authorized for a veteran during a period of:

(1) Rehabilitation to the point of employability;

(2) Extended evaluation; or

(3) Independent living services.

(b) *Election of subsistence allowance.* If a veteran elects to receive subsistence allowance and payment of rehabilitation services by VA, he or she may be authorized leave of absence under §§ 21.342 through 21.350.

(c) *Election of benefits at the chapter 30 rate.* If a veteran elects to receive a subsistence allowance paid at the chapter 30 rate, the effect of absences is determined under §§ 21.7139 and 21.7154.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1508(f) and 1510)

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 4285, Jan. 30, 1989; 57 FR 57109, Dec. 3, 1992]

§ 21.342 Leave accounting policy.

(a) *Amount of leave.* A veteran pursuing one of the programs listed in § 21.340(a) may be authorized up to 30 days of leave by the case manager during a twelve-month period. The beginning date of the first twelve-month period is the commencing date of the original award, and the ending date is twelve months from the beginning date, with subsequent twelve-month periods running consecutively thereafter.

(b) *Additional leave under exceptional circumstances.* A veteran in a program may be authorized up to 15 additional days of leave during the twelve-month period by the case manager under exceptional circumstances, such as extended illness or family problems.

(c) *Absence.* For the purpose of determining when a leave of absence may be authorized, a veteran who elects subsistence allowance shall be considered absent during any period in which he or she is:

(1) Not in attendance under the rules and regulations of the educational institution, rehabilitation center, or sheltered workshop;

(2) Not considered at work under the rules of the training establishment; or

(3) Not present at a scheduled period of individual instruction.

(d) *System of records.* An educational institution, training establishment, rehabilitation center, or other facility or

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individual providing training and rehabilitation services under Chapter 31 may utilize the same system of records to determine absence as the one used for similarly circumstanced non-veterans.

(e) *Change in rate of pursuit.* The amount of approved leave is not affected by the veteran's rate of pursuit of a rehabilitation program.

(f) *Charging leave.* VA shall charge 1 day of leave for each day or part of a day of absence from pursuit of a rehabilitation program.

(g) *Limitation on carrying leave over to another period.* The veteran may not carry over unused days of leave from one twelve-month period to another.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3110)

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984; 50 FR 9622, Mar. 11, 1985, as amended by 56 FR 14649, Apr. 11, 1991]

§ 21.344 Facility offering training or rehabilitation services.

(a) *Approval of leaves of absence required.* Leaves of absence normally must be approved in advance by the case manager when the facility offering training or rehabilitation services arranges for the leave. The approval of the case manager is required:

(1) During periods in a rehabilitation program identified in § 21.342(c); or

(2) A period of hospitalization at VA expense during one of the periods identified in § 21.342(c).

(b) *Responsibility of the veteran in obtaining leave.* VA will not authorize leave without a verbal or written request by the veteran, and the approval of the facility.

(c) *Conditions permitting approval of leaves of absence.* (1) The case manager may approve leaves of absence up to a total of 30 days during a twelve-month period if the facility certifies that the use of the leave does not interfere materially with the veteran's progress;

(2) An additional period of up to 15 days of leave in the same twelve-month period under exceptional circumstances may be approved by the case manager if failure to approve leave will:

(i) Result in personal hardship, or

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(ii) Adversely affect the veteran's ability to continue in his or her rehabilitation program.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3110)

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984, as amended by 56 FR 14649, Apr. 11, 1991]

§ 21.346 Facility temporarily not offering training or rehabilitation services.

(a) *Approval of leave of absence not required.* A veteran may receive subsistence allowance, during a period when the facility temporarily is not offering services, without the veteran's being charged with leave when:

(1) The facility is closed temporarily under an executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation;

(2) The veteran is pursuing on-job training and he or she receives holidays established by Federal or State law;

(3) The veteran is pursuing farm cooperative training and is required in the ordinary day to day conduct of farm business to be absent:

(i) From the farm; or

(ii) From that part of a farm cooperative course which is given at the educational institution.

(4) The veteran is pursuing a standard college degree; and

(i) There is an interval between consecutive semesters, terms, quarters or periods of instruction *within a certified enrollment period* which does not exceed a full calendar month;

(ii) There is an interval, which does not exceed a full calendar month between semesters, terms or quarters when the educational institution only certifies enrollment on a semester, term, or quarter basis; or

(iii) There is an interval, which does not exceed 30 days, when the veteran, as part of his or her approved program of vocational rehabilitation, transfers from one educational institution to another for the purpose of enrolling in and pursuing a similar program at the second institution;

(5) The veteran is pursuing a non-college-degree course and there is a period of up to 5 days per twelve-month period during which the school offering non-college-degree courses is not operating, because instructors are attending professional meetings.