

IRA M. LEFF

AND ASSOCIATES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1800 CENTURY PLACE, N.E.

SUITE 100

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30345

WWW.IRALEFF.COM

IRA M. LEFF

IRALEFF@BELLSOUTH.NET

DIRECT DIAL: (404) 633-1801

FACSIMILE: (404) 634-4300

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Elder Law Minute

Military Veterans' Health Care

Have you heard of The Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act? This is an Act of Congress passed November 30, 1999. It potentially provides adult day care, home health care, respite care, geriatric evaluations and nursing home care to certain former military personnel, with very affordable co-payments.

For example, the maximum copayment for day care and respite care is \$15 per day. The maximum co-pay for home care is \$5 per day. And the maximum nursing home copayment is \$97 per day. If the applicant's income and assets are low, the copayments are even lower.

In order to qualify for this benefit, you are not required to have served in the military during wartime like many other V.A. benefits. However, you generally must have served at least 24 months in the military, unless you served before 1980.

This benefit applies to the service person only. There are no spousal benefits for widows of veterans.

In order to access this benefit, the applicant must be utilizing the V.A. medical network. Applications for the Millennium benefits are taken at the V.A. hospital.

I have represented many Veterans and am certainly familiar with Pension and Compensation benefits. Until recently, I was not familiar with the Millennium Act and the benefits available to geriatric patients thereunder. If you have any experience with these benefits, please let me know and I will share it in future issues of Elder Law Minute.

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