

Income Calculation for Aid and Attendance

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Each year Congress sets a limit on the amount of **countable** income a veteran may have to qualify for Aid and Attendance. As of December 1, 2011, the limits were as follows: \$20,447 for a single veteran, \$24,239 for a veteran with a spouse or dependent, \$13,138 for a surviving spouse, and \$15,672 for a surviving spouse with a dependent. Additional children add \$2,039 each to the above limits.

When trying to get a rough idea if you qualify for the Aid and Attendance benefit, you can use the following points:

- **Figure your total income.** Include any money earned from working, retirement income, disability payments, interest and dividends.
- **Figure your unreimbursed medical expenses.** Unreimbursed medical payments are any monies paid out of your own pocket. This includes standard health care costs as well as the costs associated with assisted living, prescriptions, diabetic supplies, insurance premiums, and anything else not covered by a health insurance plan.
- **Calculate 5% of your Basic Pension MAPR.** The Basic Pension maximum annual pension rate (MAPR) is also set by Congress each year. Currently, MAPR is \$12,256 for a single veteran, \$16,051 for a veteran with a spouse or dependent, \$8,219 for a surviving spouse, and \$10,759 for a surviving spouse with a dependent. Now take your MAPR and multiply it by 0.05 (5%).
- **Subtract your 5% MAPR from your total unreimbursed medical expenses.** Take the 5% MAPR that you calculated and subtract it from the total unreimbursed medical expenses calculated. This is your **adjusted unreimbursed medical expenses**.
- **Subtract adjusted unreimbursed medical expenses from your total income.** Finally, take your **adjusted unreimbursed medical expenses** amount subtract it from your total income. This final amount is what the VA calls your **countable** income, and is what should be compared to the Aid and Attendance income limits to determine eligibility.

About Attorney Darol Tuttle

This calculation can feel complicated and confusing and fortunately, experienced Tacoma veteran's benefits attorney Darol Tuttle can help. Attorney Tuttle, a veteran himself, understands the nuances the Aid and Attendance benefit. Contact us today at **253-272-1904** or by email at info@daroltuttle.com.