

Town of Sharon Department of Veteran Services

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Subject: Alert Camp Lejeune opinion of Sharon V.S.O.

Dear Veteran,

As of September 2022, the Sharon Veteran Service Office does not have U.S. Dept of Veteran Affairs policy as to impact of veteran benefits for veterans who have or had compensation and or medical health treatment.

Based on past determination if a veteran receives services or money from more than one government element for the same item, then the government offsets so that person only receives a net award.

The U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs has not issued as of today the impact of a veteran receiving service or benefit for the same being the acceptance of a civil law claim settlement.

Suggest you read the U.S. Gov/Camp Lejeune website. That site will have current data for veteran and family.

As of September 2022, veteran has to prove link to Camp Lejeune and has medical documented need for the V.A. benefits office to address a claim for compensation. V.A. hospital treatment facility can register a veteran for Camp Lejeune and provide appropriate medical care based on evidence and situation. Each case handled based on appropriate needed documentation.

V.A. does offer assistance for family but not at the V.A. hospital. See V.A. Gov/Camp Lejeune. Local veteran service officers for city or town in Massachusetts along with national service officer for veteran organizations such as American Legion, Veteran of Foreign War, etc. Can assist in VA claim. They cannot assist for civil lawsuits.

Suggest a veteran who may qualify for a civil claim or veteran affairs claim obtain <u>all</u> facts before accepting a civil claim. Verify with legal team who wants to process your civil claim if you later decide to withdraw your claim prior to settlement, maybe in more than a year, what is impact on veteran to include cost.

For some the potential maybe appropriate for civil case however you must understand your options and impact.

Veteran who served at Camp Lejeune from 1953 thru 1987 is able to file a V.A. claim, see V.S.O. or Vet Org. If you desire to file V.A. and civil, assure you have written facts prior to accepting an approved civil case award.

Due to V.A. policy as of September 2022 you should continue obtaining future policy V.A. data. In summary become informed. Obtain written agreement etc. Evaluate medical care need and payment.

You need documentation whichever method you select.

In 2017 data about Camp Lejeune was placed on the Town of Sharon Veteran Service website. Read that notice and read the above to include V.A. Gov/Camp Lejeune.

Very truly yours,

Paul R. Bergeron Director Veteran Services