



January 31, 2013

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VARO PHILADELPHIA
5000 WISSAHICKON AVE
PO BOX 8079
PHILADELPHIA PA 19101

THOMAS E SELLERS
823 JONES MILL RD
CENTRAL, SC 29630

In Reply Refer To: 310/PMC/AK
CSS 355 36 6548
SELLERS, Thomas Edward

Dear Mr. Sellers:

Senator Lindsey O Graham has taken an interest in your claim and will receive a copy of this correspondence.

We amended your disability pension award based on your change in dependency we received on November 27, 2012.

This letter tells you about your award rate, payment change date, what we decided, how we made our decision, the evidence used to decide your claim, and how we calculated your benefits. It also tells you of your responsibilities, what to do if you disagree with our decision, and who to contact if you have questions or need assistance.

Your Award Amount and Payment Change Date

Your monthly award amount is shown below:

Monthly Award Amount	Payment Change Date	Reason For Change
\$739.00	Jan 25, 2012	Removed Summer from Award Upon 18 th Birthday, Countable Income Adjustment
\$750.00	Dec 1, 2012	Cost of Living Adjustment,
\$755.00	Feb 1, 2013	Medical Expense Adjustment

We are paying you as a veteran with one dependent. Your payment includes an additional amount for your spouse. *Let us know right away if there is any change in your marital status (for example, death, divorce, annulment).*



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You Can Expect Payment

You will receive a payment covering the initial amount due under this award, minus any withholdings, in approximately 15 days. Payment will then be made at the beginning of each month for the prior month. For example, benefits due for May are paid on or about June 1.

What We Decided

We increased your disability pension benefits effective January 25, 2012.

We enclosed a VA Form 21-8768, "Disability Pension Award Attachment" which explains important factors concerning your benefits.

How Did We Make Our Decision?

We increased your disability pension benefits because removed your dependent child upon her 18th birthday and her countable income.

Evidence Used to Decide Your Claim

In making our decision, we used the following evidence:

- VA Form 21-4138 Support of Claim
- Correspondence

What Income And Expenses Did We Use?

We used your total family income as shown below to adjust your pension benefit from January 25, 2012.

Income We Counted

	Annual Earnings	Annual Social Security	Annual Retirement	Annual Other Sources
Yourself	\$0	\$7,570	\$0	\$0
Spouse	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

We used family medical expenses you paid in the amount of \$1,198.00 which reduces your countable income to \$7,174.00.

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We have verified with SSA that your monthly benefit is \$630.90 monthly and we counted this amount when calculating your pension benefit. If you have evidence from SSA showing that this is incorrect please submit it to us as soon as possible so we can adjust your award accordingly.

We used your total family income as shown below to adjust your pension benefit from December 1, 2012.

Income We Counted

	Annual Earnings	Annual Social Security	Annual Retirement	Annual Other Sources
Yourself	\$0	\$7,702	\$0	\$0
Spouse	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

We used family medical expenses you paid in the amount of \$1,198.00 which reduces your countable income to \$7,320.00.

We have verified with SSA that your monthly benefit is \$641.90 monthly and we counted this amount when calculating your pension benefit. If you have evidence from SSA showing that this is incorrect please submit it to us as soon as possible so we can adjust your award accordingly.

We used your total family income as shown below to adjust your pension benefit from February 1, 2013.

Income We Counted

	Annual Earnings	Annual Social Security	Annual Retirement	Annual Other Sources
Yourself	\$0	\$7,702	\$0	\$0
Spouse	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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We used your medical expenses of \$1,258.00 which represents the amount you pay for Medicare Part B as a continuing deduction from February 1, 2013. This reduces your countable income to \$7,260.00. If the amounts you pay for medical expenses changes or you are no longer paying medical expenses, tell us immediately. If you don't tell us about changes in your medical expenses, we may pay you too much money. You would have to pay back this money.

What Are Your Responsibilities?

You are responsible to tell us right away if:

- your income or the income of your dependents changes (e.g., earnings, Social Security benefits, lottery and gambling winnings)
- your net worth increases (e.g., bank accounts, investments, real estate)
- your continuing medical expenses are reduced
- you gain or lose a dependent
- your address or phone number changes

What Is eBenefits?

eBenefits provides electronic resources in a self-service environment to service members, Veterans, and their families. Through the eBenefits website you can:

- Track the status of your claim or appeal
- View your payment history
- Obtain verification of your military service, civil service preference, or VA benefits
- Receive a copy of your military discharge documents, and
- Manage your VA life insurance policy

Enrolling in eBenefits is easy. Just visit www.eBenefits.va.gov for more information on this joint Department of Defense and VA service.

What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision

If you do not agree with our decision, you should write and tell us why. You have *one year from the date of this letter to appeal the decision*. The enclosed VA Form 4107, "Your Rights to Appeal Our Decision," explains your right to appeal.

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If You Have Questions or Need Assistance

If you have any questions, you may contact us by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

If you	Here is what to do.
Telephone	Call us at 1-877-294-6380. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal number is 711.
Use the Internet	Send electronic inquiries through the Internet at https://iris.va.gov .
Write	Put your full name and VA file number on the letter. Please send all correspondence to the address at the top of this letter.

In all cases, be sure to refer to your VA file number 355 36 6548.

If you are looking for general information about benefits and eligibility, you should visit our website at <https://www.va.gov>, or search the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <https://iris.va.gov>.

We sent a copy of this letter to your representative, American Legion, whom you can also contact if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen Kostic

Eileen Kostic
Veterans Service Center Manager

To email us visit <https://iris.va.gov>

Enclosure(s): VA Form 21-8768
VA Form 4107

cc: American Legion
Senator Lindsey O Graham