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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Veterans Affairs

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Director

Fact sheet #20
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SPINA BIFIDA BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY

There are three basic eligibility requirements:

1. The parent(s) of a spina bifida child-claimant must have performed active military, naval, or air service in the Republic of Vietnam between **January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975**.

2. The child must be the natural child of the Vietnam veteran, regardless of age or marital status, who was conceived after the date on which the veteran first entered the Republic of Vietnam.

The term "natural child" means a biological child and excludes the notion of deriving entitlement from adoptive parents. Only a biological parent of an adopted child could make the child eligible.

3. Spina Bifida benefits are payable for all types of spina bifida except spina bifida occulta. Private physicians, government or private institution examination reports may establish the diagnosis.

Level I	Level II	Level III
$286	$4984	$1687

Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Born with Certain Birth Defects

Who is eligible for the Children of Women Vietnam Veterans monthly allowance?

Under Public Law 106-419, children born to women Vietnam veterans may be eligible for a monthly monetary allowance if they suffer from certain covered birth defects. Children must have been conceived after the date on which the veteran first entered the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on **February 28, 1961, and ending on May 7, 1975**. (Spina Bifida however, is covered under the VA's Spina Bifida Program.) VA identifies the birth defects as those that are associated with the service of the mother in Vietnam and resulted in permanent physical or mental disability.

However, covered birth defects do not include conditions due to:

- Familial disorders;
- Birth-related injuries; or
- Fetal or neonatal infirmities with well-established causes.

Spina Bifida & Certain Birth Defects

NOTE: The law defines the term "child" as the natural child of a woman Vietnam veteran, regardless of age or marital status.

Covered Birth Defects (Include, but are not limited to.)

- Achondroplasia.
- Cleft lip and cleft palate.
- Congenital heart disease.
- Congenital talipes equinovarus (club foot).
- Esophegeal and intestinal atresia.
- Hallerman-Streiff syndrome.
- Hip dysplasia
- Hypospadias megacolon).
- Hydrocephalus due to aqueductal stenosis.
- Hirschprung's disease (congenital
- Imperforate anus.
- Neural tube defects.
- Poland syndrome.
- Pyloric stenosis.
- Syndactyly (fused digits).
- Tracheoesophageal fistulia.
- Undescended testicle.
- Williams syndrome.

What are the monthly allowable amounts?

Level of disability will determine the amount of the monthly monetary amount.

Disability Level

Level I	Level I	Level III	Level IV
$131	$286	$984	$1678

Possible Entitlement.

The law does not allow payment of both benefits at the same time. If entitlement exists under both laws, benefits will be paid under 38 U.S.C. 1815.

Health Coverage

The law allows health care covering the defects or any disability associated with the birth defects.

Vocational Rehabilitation - If achievement of a vocational goal is reasonably feasible, a program of vocational training provided by the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service is available to an eligible child.

Veterans Affairs Office Locations:

- 222 W. Hospitality Lane, Third Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470 (909) 382-3290
- 15900 Smoke Tree Street, Hesperia, CA 92345 (760) 995-8010
- 8575 Haven Ave., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (909-948-6470
- **Or call Toll Free from anywhere in San Bernardino County : 1-866-4SB-Vets (1-866-472-8387)**