## Veterans' Legal Issues, Considerations, and Resources Thursday June 27th | Boston & Live Streamed

## **Resources for Veterans**

Veterans may face obstacles which impact family, health, and financial matters. Oftentimes, they would benefit from legal information as well as information on benefits (veteran-specific benefits or public benefits) that could help maximize their resources. Below is a list of legal aid and other resources for veterans.

## **General Resources**

VA Legal Services for Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness Grant Program (LSV-H)	Organizations across the country have been awarded federal funding to provide free legal services to veterans who are experiencing housing insecurity. Search for providers by state. www.va.gov/HOMELESS/Isv/LSV-H_Award_list.pdf
State Side Legal	<u>State Side Legal maintains a database of legal aid organizations across the country that provide services to veterans.</u> <u>https://www.statesidelegal.org/stateside-map</u>
Veterans 24/7 Crisis Line	Veterans in crisis or someone concerned about one, can call the Veterans Crisis Line, a free, confidential resource that connects callers to a real person specially trained to support Veterans. <b>Dial 988 and Press 1</b>
Department of Veterans Affairs Medical-Legal Partnerships	The VA maintains a list of legal services organizations that partner with VA healthcare facilities. Search for providers by state. https://www.va.gov/ogc/docs/LegalServices.pdf
Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Resources	People of all genders, ages, sexual orientations, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and branches of service have experienced MST. 1 in 3 women veterans and 1 in 50 men veterans in the VA healthcare system report experiencing MST. Like other types of trauma, MST can negatively affect a person's mental and physical health, even many years later. Support is available. <u>https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/index.asp</u>



This information is provided to you by Veterans Legal Services. To make any edits, additions, or deletions to the listings, please email <u>info@veteranslegalservices. org.</u>

Veterans Legal Services helps Massachusetts veterans overcome adversity by providing free civil legal aid that honors their service, promotes well-being, and responds to their distinctive needs.



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## State Specific Resources

Swords to Plowshares (CA)	Swords to Plowshares, assists San Francisco Bay Area veterans who have low income and/or who are unhoused, and only with VA benefits claims and discharge upgrades cases. <b>1060 Howard Street San Francisco, CA 94103. (415) 798-8387</b>
Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CT)	Connecticut Veterans Legal Center provides free legal assistance to Connecticut veterans to help them overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare, and income. Practice Areas and Geographic Limitations: discharge upgrade cases; VA benefits, including appeals; civil legal issues including housing, child support enforcement, Social Security overpayment, SNAP, and other safety net programs. CVLC serves veterans living in Connecticut, regardless of discharge status. More information here: www.ctveteranslegal.org To apply for legal assistance by phone: 203-479-0375 To apply for legal assistance by e-mail: intakes@ctveteranslegal.org
Veterans Legal Clinic at the Legal Services Center at Harvard Law School (MA)	The Veterans Legal Clinic represents veterans and their family members when they cannot afford an attorney in matters such as state and federal veterans benefits, discharge upgrades, and estate planning. Practice Areas and Geographic Limitations: discharge upgrade cases nationwide; for Massachusetts veterans and survivors, also estate planning, VA benefits, Massachusetts Chapter 115 benefits, and other safety net programs. The Legal Services Center also has five other civil legal service clinics for Massachusetts residents. More information here: https://legalservicescenter.org/ To apply for legal assistance by phone: 617-390-2525 To apply for legal assistance by e-mail: veteranslegalclinic@law.harvard.edu
MA Executive Office of Veterans Services/Local Veterans Service Officer (MA)	Massachusetts veterans can receive support from the Veterans Service Office (VSO) in their city or town. <u>www.mass.gov/orgs/executive-office-of-veterans-services</u>
Veterans Legal Services (MA)	Veterans Legal Services provides free civil (non-criminal) legal help to veterans in Massachusetts. Practice areas include: family, housing, debt, and benefits law, as well as discharge upgrades. Eligibility information: <u>www.veteranslegalservices.org/help</u> Request assistance: <u>www.veteranslegalservices.org/screening-form</u>
State of Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services (RI)	Rhode Island veterans can receive support from the Office of Veterans Services. <u>www.vets.ri.gov/</u>