DoD Special Compensation to Service Members for Caregiver Support

Overview

Special Compensation for Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (SCAADL) was authorized by the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. This special monthly compensation is for Service members who incur a permanent catastrophic injury or illness in the line of duty. SCAADL helps offset the loss of income by a primary caregiver who provides non-medical care, support, and assistance for the catastrophically injured or ill Service member.

Highlights

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to assisting catastrophically wounded, ill, and injured Service members, and those who care for them.

- The amount of DoD special compensation to Service members for outpatient caregiver support depends upon the amount and degree of personal care services required for the Service member and the location where the Service member resides.
- If you are a catastrophically ill or injured Service member, contact your recovery team (to include the Primary Care Manager, Nurse Case Manager, Recovery Care Coordinator, Non-Medical Case Manager, or unit leadership) for an application form (DD Form 2948) to determine your eligibility for SCAADL compensation.
- The payments can continue until the earlier of the following: for up to 90 days post separation; until assistance is no longer required; or upon your caregiver’s receipt of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) caregiver compensation.

What is required to Qualify for SCAADL compensation?

All Service members must have a permanent catastrophic injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and:

1. Be an outpatient
2. Be certified by a DoD or VA physician to be in need of assistance from another person to perform the personal functions required in daily living or require constant supervision.
3. In the absence of caregiver assistance, would require some form of residential institutional care (i.e. hospitalization or nursing home).

Frequent Asked Questions

Is SCAADL Automatic?

No, the Service member or guardian must apply and a DoD or VA physician, and the military Commander (or Service designated command representative) certifies eligibility for SCAADL. A Service member should contact a member of his or her recovery team (to include the Primary Care Manager, Nurse Case Manager, Recovery Care Coordinator, Non-Medical Case Manager, or unit leadership) for the SCAADL application form and guidance regarding their eligibility for SCAADL compensation.