



# Department of Veterans Affairs Debt Management Center (DMC)

Veterans Service Organization Presentation







- Provide an overview of DMC
- Explain why/how debts are established
- Provide updates on COVID-19 Relief
- Outline collection processes
- Discuss options to resolve a debt
- Communicate risks of non-payment
- Answer questions



# **Organization Chart**







# **Organization Chart**





# Overview



- DMC is a franchise fund aligned with VA's Office of Finance (OF) within the Office of Management (OM)
- Located in St. Paul, MN
- Provide accounts receivable services to VBA, VHA, NCA
- Collect \$1.6 billion annually
- Staff of 300 employees

#### DMC mission:

Provide distinctive, high quality accounts receivable services through a compassionate and value-added approach, empowering our stakeholders to focus on core missions.







#### The Debt Collection Act of 1982

• Authority for collection by administrative offset

#### **The Debt Collection Improvement Act (DCIA) of 1996**

 Agencies required to refer delinquent non-tax debts to the Department of Treasury at 180 days

#### Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA) of 2014

 Changed referral requirement for delinquent non-tax debts to the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) from 180 days to 120 days





### **Debt Establishment**







### **Debt Establishment**







### **COVID-19 Relief**

#### Options for Veterans with pre-existing debts who are financially unable to pay their debt due to COVID-19:

- Delay benefit offset or payments due until January 1st, 2021
- Extend repayment plan terms





## **COVID-19 Relief continued**

- Collection action on new Veteran and beneficiary debts delayed. Institutions (schools) continue to receive the normal series of debt letters.
- No referral to Credit Reporting Agencies or Credit Alert Interactive Voice Response System (CAIVRS). CAIVRS alerts lenders of VA debt and impacts federal home loan underwriting
- All collection action on VA debts under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of the Treasury is suspended until after January 1, 2021





### **Outreach and Updates**

- □ VSO, SCO and Veteran emails
- VA texts and social media
- Borne the Battle Podcast
- DMC website: https://www.va.gov/debtman/





### **Initial Debt Notification**







#### **Collection Process**

DMC sends Notice of Indebtedness (NOI) letters, monitors accounts, and advises debtor of any delinquency, including the requirement to refer their account to Treasury





### **Notification Letter**





DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Debt Management Center Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building P.O. Box 11930 St. Paul. MN 55111-0930

> File Number: Pavee Number Person Entitled: Deduction Code: Questions? https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/ask/ (Please provide the information above on any IRIS correspondence)

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently sent you a letter explaining that your entitlement to benefits had changed. As a result, you were paid \$

more than you were entitled to receive. Since you are currently receiving VA benefits, we plan to withhold those benefits until the amount you were overpaid is recouped. We are sorry for the inconvenience - we would like to work with you to take care of your debt. Please call our office at 1-800-827-0648 from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, if you need help. Visit www.va.gov/debtman for Saturday availability.

If you have a question about where the debt came from or believe your benefit rate is incorrect, please call 1-888-442-4551 for education benefits or 1-800-827-1000 for other VA benefits. Even if newly submitted information may change your benefit rate, you still must choose from an option below to resolve the debt.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS? We plan to withhold your full benefit amount until the debt is paid. You can also pay the debt in full within the next 30 days. Or, if you are financially unable to pay the full debt, you can request an extended monthly payment plan; request a waiver; or dispute the debt, if you feel it is not valid. Please see the back of this letter for more information. Interest may be charged at an annual rate of percent and a monthly administrative collection fee of \$ may also be charged. It is important to pay this debt within 30 days of the date of this letter or tell us which option you choose.

#### PLEASE TAKE ACTION: Pay the Debt

You can pay the full debt in one payment by: • Paying online at <u>www.pay.va.gov</u>. Click "Pay Online." You can choose between paying from your bank account or by credit card. You will find instructions on the web page.

- · Using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or Western Union "Quick Collect." For
- information about how to pay by credit card or Western Union, please call us at 1-800-827-0648. Sending a check or money order made out to "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs." Please write your VA file number or Social Security number on the check. Please fill out the remittance form included with this letter and mail it, with your check or money order, in the return envelope.

FOR PROPER CREDIT TO YOUR ACCOUNT, PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT

🕸 Department of Veterans Affairs

PAYMENT REMITTANCE

* FILE NO.	AMOUNT ENCLOSED	ENTER YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS BELOW ONLY IF THE ONE ABOVE IS INCORRECT, R.EASE INCLUDE YOUR ZIP CODE,
PAYEE NO.	s	
PERSON ENTITLED	YOUR TELEPHONE NO, (Include Area Code)	
DEDUCTION CODE		
<ul> <li>Please include this number or</li> </ul>	your check or mon	ey order.

FL 4-474a JAN 2019

#### **IRIS** link

Debt balance, warnings, options

**Payment Coupon** 





## **Debt Resolution Options**









- Pay by check: mail the check, payment coupon(s) and/or letter to:
  - VA Debt Management Center
  - Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building
  - P.O. Box 11930
  - St. Paul, MN 55111-0930
- Pay online: <u>www.pay.va.gov</u>
- Pay by telephone: 800-827-0648







- Debtor can dispute the existence or amount of the debt created by VBA
- Dispute must be in writing
- DMC forwards disputes to the Regional Office/Regional Processing Office of jurisdiction



## Waiver



- Debtor has 180 days from date of first NOI letter to request waiver
- Request can be based on financial hardship and/or explain why not responsible for repaying debt
- Request must be:
  - Made in writing and submitted to DMC
  - Include VA Form 5655 Financial Status Report
  - If received in the first 30 days for Education or 90 days for C&P debt, collection action is suspended
- If the decision is less than a full grant, debtor has one year from the date of decision to appeal
  - Collection action continues during appeal process





## Withholding VA benefits

- Automatic 12 month repayment plan for compensation and pension debts.
- Full amount of benefit payment will be withheld until debt is paid in full for education debts
- If debtor has a financial hardship, they must contact the DMC
- VA Form 5655, Financial Status Report, is required for any reduced withholding arrangement beyond 12 months





### **Compromise Offer**

- Debtor should send letter to DMC indicating "compromise offer" and specifying amount
- Offer should be a "lump sum"
- Offer must include VA Form 5655
- DMC refers offers to the Committee on Compromises
- If offer is accepted, DMC will advise settlement terms

\*\*\* Payment should not be sent until the debtor receives a decision accepting the offer\*\*\*





#### **VA Form 5655**

Department of V	eterans Affairs		FINANCIAL STATUS REP	ORT			
1. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	2. FILE NO.		SPECIFY WHY YOU ARE COMPLETING THIS FORM (Watver, Compromise, Payment Plan or Other)				
			(carrier) conductions of a control of the control o				
(Type or print all entries. If more under Section VII, Additional D	ata, Item 36 or attack se	parate sheet)					
cceptance of a compromise offer r a payment plan may be affected isclosed outside the Department o be information can be found in viccounts Receivable Records-VA scluding your Social Security Nun y virtue of your participation in an	or for a payment plan. ID . The responses you sub- f Veterans Affairs (VA) VA systems of records, . VA systems of record aber, may be used in com- ry benefit program admin	tisclosure is volum nit are confidenti only when author including 58VA2 s and alterations opter matching p istered by VA.	m is almost always used to determine if you are digable with the second second second second second second second and protected from anathorized disclosure by 38 U.S.C. 20 d by the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. The routine us (22, Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation the system second second second second second second agreement of the second sec	ability for waiver, compromise 701. The information may be set for which VA may disclose 1 Records-VA, and 83VA244, information provided by you, collection of an amount owed			
Control Number. Public reporting earching existing data sources, gat his burden estimate or any other as	burden for this collection hering and maintaining to pect of this collection of	in of information he data needed, a information, call	is not required to respond to this collection of information s estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the t l completing and reviewing the collection of information. 1 800-827-0648 for mailing information on where to send you	f you have comments regarding ar comments.			
		SECTION	PERSONAL DATA				
FIRST-MIDDLE-LAST NAME OF	PERSON		5. ADDRESS (Number and street or rural route, City or I	9.0. Box, State, and ZIP Code)			
TELEPHONE NO. (Include Area Co	sde) 7. DATI	E OF BIRTH (MM	D-YYYY) 8. MARITAL STATUS MARRIED NOT MARRIED				
NAME OF SPOUSE			10. AGE(8) OF OTHER DEPENDENTS				
COMP	LETE RECORD OF E	MPLOYMENT F	R YOURSELF AND SPOUSE DURING PAST 2 YEA	R8			
KIND OF JOB	DATES FROM	MM-YYYY) TO	NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER				
	- Nom		LOYMENT EXPERIENCE				
		PRESENT	ME				
		12. YOUR S	OUSE'S EMPLOYMENT				
		PRESENT	ME				
	ION II - INCOME		SECTION III - EXPE				
VERAGE MONTHLY INCOME	SELF	SPOUS	AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES	AMOUNT			
<ol> <li>MONTHLY GROSS SALARY (Before payroll deductions)</li> </ol>	\$	5	18. RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENT	\$			
4. PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS			19. FOOD				
A. FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL INCOME TAXES			20. UTILITIES AND HEAT				
B. RETIREMENT			21. OTHER LIVING EXPENSES				
C. SOCIAL SECURITY							
D. OTHER (Specific)			_				
(Items 144 through 14D)							
(Items 144 through 14D) 5. NET TAKE HOME PAY (Subtract Item 14E from Item 13)							
6. VA BENEFITS, SOCIAL ECURITY, OR OTHER INCOME							
ped/y anarce)			<ol> <li>MONTHLY PAYMENTS ON INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS AND OTHER DEBTS (Include amount from Section VI, Line 341 - Column E.)</li> </ol>				
7. TOTAL MONTHLY NET INCOME (Item 15 phur Item 16)	8	s	23. TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$			
	SE	CTION IV - D	SCRETIONARY INCOME				

					SECTIO	N V - ASSETS					
25.0	ASH IN BANK wilding and loa	Checking accounts	g and savings accounts, , etc.)	\$		29. U.S. SAVINGS (Current Value)	BONDS	\$			
26. CASH ON HAND 27. AUTOMOBILES (Resale value)					30. STOCKS AND ( (Current Value)	OTHER BONDS				_	
					31. REAL ESTATE	OWNED					
_	MAKE	YEAR	MODEL			(Readle value) 32. OTHER ASSET	8 (Specify below)	-			
											_
		-						-			
_		-						-			
28. T	RAILERS, BO	ATS, CAI	IPERS (Resale value)	\$			L ASSETS	•			
NO mac	TE: Show thine, payn	below nents to	ALL debts which dealers, banks, fr UDE LIVING EX	i you nanc	<ul> <li>- INSTALLMENT are required to pay e companies, repayi ISES</li> </ul>	v in regular month nent of money bo	ND OTHER DE hly installments, rrowed for any p	BTS such a urpos	as a car, tele e, doctor bill	vision, was ls, hospital	hing bills
			ESS OF CREDITOR		DATE AND PURPOSE OF DEBT (B)	ORIGINAL AMOUNT OF DEBT (C)	UNPAID BALANCE (D)		IOUNT DUE MONTHLY (E)	AMOU PAST D (If an) (F)	DUE
34A.					(0)	(0)	(0)		(=)		_
				_		\$	\$	\$		\$	
94B.											
HC.											
HD.											
HE.											
34F.											
340.											_
54H.											
			34I. TOTAL	•		\$	\$	\$		\$	
NO	In: If repays	nent of a c	lett is not on a monthl	y basis	s, write "0" in column E a	and describe arrangeme ADDITIONAL D		<b>b</b> .			
	DOCUMENT/	ATION	N ADJUDICATED BAN ," complete Items 358 the		T? IF SO AND VA OR A M			EASE	SEND ALL PERT	TINENT	
358.	DATE DISCH	ARGED F	ROM BANKRUPTCY (	MM-DC	D-YYYY) 35C. LOCATIO	N OF COURT	35D. (	DOCKE	T NO. (l/known)		
98. U	ISE THIS SPA REVIOUS ITE	CE AND A	ER(S) TO WHICH YOU	RCO					JE YOUR ANSW	VER TO	
				ION	VIII - APPLICANT						_
37A	YOUR SIG	NATURE	(Required)		37B. DATE SIGNED	38A. SIGNATUR	E OF SPOUSE (Re	nired)	38B.	DATE SKINED	,
PEN			ides severe penalties w	hich is	clude fine or imprisonm	ent, or both, for the wi	llful submission of an	y states	nent or evidence	e of a material	fact,
	ving it to be fi										





#### VA Form 5655, section I

					B Approved No. 2900-0165 spondent Burden: 1 hour	
Department of V				NCIAL STATUS REPO	ORT	
1. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	2. FILE NO.			(OU ARE COMPLETING THIS FORM nise, Payment Plan or Other)		What is
(Type or print all entries. If more under Section VII, Additional D	space is needed for ata, Item 36 or atta	r any item, continue ich separate sheet)			r	equested?
acceptance of a compromise offer of or a payment plan may be affected. disclosed outside the Department of the information can be found in V Accounts Receivable Records-VA. neluding your Social Security Num by virtue of your participation in an <b>RESPONDENT BURDEN:</b> VA r Control Number. Public reporting	or for a payment pla The responses you (Veterans Alflairs ( /A systems of rec- VA systems of n iber, may be used in y benefit program a nay not conduct or burden for this col	an. Disclosure is voluntary, a submit are confidential an VA) only when authorized york, including 58VA21/22 eccords and alterations to th n computer matching progra dministered by VA. sponsor, and respondent is flection of information is estimation.	However, if d protected fin by the Privacy , Compensationer expension e systems are ann conducted not required to stimated to ave	ays used to determine if you are eligible the information is not furnished, your eligi im unauthorized disclosure by 38 U.S.C. 3 Act of 1974, as amended. The routine us an, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation published in the <u>Ederal Register</u> . Any in connection with any proceeding for the prespond to this collection of information rage 1 hour per response, including the ti	bility for waiver, commise 701. The information asy be es for which VA may disclose Records-VA, and 88VA244, information provided by you, collection of an amount owed unless it displays a valid OMB ime for reviewing instructions,	
earching existing data sources, gat his burden estimate or any other as	hering and maintain pect of this collection	ning the data needed, and co on of information, call 1-80 SECTION I - P	0-827-0648 fo	reviewing the collection of information. If mailing information on where to send you DATA	you have comments regarding ir comments.	
4. FIRST-MIDDLE-LAST NAME OF F	PERSON			88 (Number and street or rural route, City or P	.O. Box, State, and ZIP Code)	
8. TELEPHONE NO. (Include Area Co	de) 7.	DATE OF BIRTH (MM-DD-)	m	8. MARITAL STATUS		
NAME OF SPOUSE			10. AGE(8	OF OTHER DEPENDENTS		
COMP	LETE RECORD O	OF EMPLOYMENT FOR	YOURSELF	AND SPOUSE DURING PAST 2 YEAR	RS	1
KIND OF JOB		TES (MM-YYYY)		NAME AND ADDRESS OF EN	MPLOYER	
	FROM	то				
		11. YOUR EMPLO	YMENT EXP	ERIENCE		
		PRESENT TIME				
		12. YOUR SPOU	SE'S EMPLO	DYMENT		
		PRESENT TIME				





#### VA Form 5655, sections II-IV

SECTI	ON II - INCOME		SECTION III - EXPENSES				
AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME	SELF	SPOUSE	AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES	AMOUNT			
<ol> <li>MONTHLY GROSS SALARY (Before payroll deductions)</li> </ol>	\$	\$	18. RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENT	\$			
14. PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS			19. FOOD				
A. FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL INCOME TAXES			20. UTILITIES AND HEAT				
B. RETIREMENT			21. OTHER LIVING EXPENSES				
C. SOCIAL SECURITY			-				
D. OTHER (Specific)							
E. TOTAL DEDUCTIONS (Items 144 through 14D)			-				
15. NET TAKE HOME PAY (Subtract Item 14E from Item 13)							
16. VA BENEFITS, SOCIAL SECURITY, OR OTHER INCOME (Specify source)			22. MONTHLY PAYMENTS ON INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS AND OTHER DEBTS (Include amount from Section VI, Line 341 - Column E.)				
<ol> <li>TOTAL MONTHLY NET INCOME (Item 15 plus Item 16)</li> </ol>	\$	8	23. TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$			
	SE	CTION IV DISC	RETIONARY INCOME	•			
24A, NET MONTHLY INCOME LESS	EXPENSES (Item 17 le	n Iton 23)	24B. AMOUNT YOU CAN PAY ON A MONTHLY BAS	IS TOWARD YOUR DEBT			
\$			5				
VA FORM JUN 2009 (RS) 5655				Dposed Vment			





#### VA Form 5655, section V

				SECTION	V - ASSETS
25. CASH IN BANK building and loar	Checking accounts,	and savings accounts, etc.)			29. U.S. SAVINGS BONDS (Current Value) S
28. CASH ON HAN	D				30. STOCKS AND OTHER BONDS (Current Value)
27. AUTOMOBILES	8 (Resale v	alur)			31. REAL ESTATE OWNED (Resale value)
MAKE	YEAR	MODEL			32. OTHER ASSETS (Specify below)
28. TRAILERS, BO	ATS, CAM	IPERS (Resale value)	8		33. TOTAL ASSETS 🕨 S





#### VA Form 5655, section VI

NOTE: Show below ALL debts which you nachine, payments to dealers, banks, finance etc. DO NOT INCLUDE LIVING EXPENSION	DATE	ORIGINAL	rrowed for any p	AMOUNT DUE	AMOUNT
NAME AND ADDRESS OF CREDITOR	AND PURPOSE OF DEBT	AMOUNT OF DEBT	BALANCE	MONTHLY	PAST DUE (If any)
(A)	(8)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
94A.		\$	\$	\$	8
¥8.					
94C.					
34D.					
94E.					
34F.					
HQ.					
ин.					
34I. TOTAL 🕨		\$	\$	s 5	rin
					Pring to fro





#### VA Form 5655, Section VII

#### SECTION VII - ADDITIONAL DATA

DOCUMENTATION YES NO () "Tex," complete Itoms 55B throug SB. DATE DISCHARGED FROM BANKRUPTCY (MN	# 35D) HDD-YYYYY) 35C. LOCATION		(Witnown)
8. USE THIS SPACE AND ADDITIONAL SHEETS, IF PREVIOUS ITEM NUMBER(S) TO WHICH YOUR		ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION AND TO CONTINUE YO	UR ANSWER TO
SECTIO	N VIII - APPLICANT	CERTIFICATIONS - REQUIRED	
37A. YOUR SIGNATURE (Required )	37B. DATE SIGNED	38A. SIGNATURE OF SPOUSE (Required)	38B. DATE SIGNED
PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties whick knowing it to be false.	h include fine or imprisonm		r evidence of a material fact,
BACK OF VA FORM 5655, JUN 2009 (R8)		Signatura	
		Signature(s) Required	







- Future VA benefits awarded will be withheld to satisfy debt
- Department of Treasury
  - Offset of Federal payments
  - Referral to private collection agencies
  - Administrative Wage Garnishment Program
- Credit Alert Interactive Voice Response System (CAIVRS): system alerts lenders of VA debt and impacts federal home loan underwriting













### **VHA Debts**

- DMC provides some collection services as a "behind the scenes" partner
- For questions, contact the Medical Billing Contact Center: 866-400-1238







### **At-Risk Veterans**

- Veterans Crisis Hotline 1-800-273-8255 www.VeteransCrisisLine.net
- If the Veteran is homeless or is facing eviction, please let us know when you contact DMC
- VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans: 1-877-424-3838
- If a Veteran is having difficulty with a VAguaranteed home loan, they can call 1-877-827-3702 to reach the nearest Loan Guaranty office





### **Become a Debt Superstar**







## **DMC Presentation Survey**

DMC values your time and feedback on our presentation. We would appreciate it if you're able to complete the survey below.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XFD7XGR



### Questions

