

# CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION

## KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



**I'm a Veteran who believes I was exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, what can VA do for me?**

Since 2012, Veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, have been eligible for hospital care and medical services for any of 15 illnesses or conditions identified in the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, as amended (codified at 38 U.S.C. § 1710(e)(1)(F)). Veterans are also eligible to enroll in VA health care for other services they may require.

Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members who served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and later developed one of the following eight diseases: Adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and Parkinson's disease, are eligible for disability compensation benefits.

For more specifics about VA benefits related to Camp Lejeune contaminated water, to include how to file a claim, visit [www.VA.gov/CampLejeune](http://www.VA.gov/CampLejeune) or call 1-800-MyVA411.

### LEARN MORE

[www.VA.gov/CampLejeune](http://www.VA.gov/CampLejeune)

### LET'S TALK



Speak to a VA benefits specialist by calling  
**1-800-MyVA411**  
(1-800-698-2411)

### LET'S MEET



Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment  
[vets.force.com/VAVERA](http://vets.force.com/VAVERA)



**What impact does the PACT Act have on Veterans and families who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune?**

On August 10, 2022, the President signed into law the Honoring our PACT Act (Public Law 117-168). Section 804 of this law is the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 ("CLJA"), which allows new lawsuits for individuals exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

Whether Veterans and family members decide to seek relief under the CLJA is entirely their decision and will not influence VA's decision to provide them benefits or health care based upon their exposure; it also will not affect the amount of benefits or health care VA can provide them.

It is important to know, however, that if a Veteran or family member is awarded relief by the court in a lawsuit brought under the CLJA, the award must be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or benefit VA provided to the Veteran, family member, or their legal representative relating to exposure to water at Camp Lejeune. This would reduce the amount of the award Veterans or family members receive from the court, but it would not affect their VA benefits.



**I'm seeing a lot of commercials about benefits I may be entitled to based on my time at Camp Lejeune. Are these ads connected to VA?**

Lawyers, firms, and others have engaged in extensive advertising offering to represent Veterans in CLJA actions. These entities are not connected with VA benefits or services. Be aware that these entities may charge you a fee for legal representation.



**Will seeking relief under the CLJA impact my VA benefits or health care?**

Your VA compensation benefits or health care services will not be impacted if you file a lawsuit. If you are awarded relief from a CLJA lawsuit, your VA benefits will not be reduced, and your eligibility for other VA benefits or services will not be affected.



**Will my court awarded relief (from filing a lawsuit) be impacted by VA benefits and services I already receive?**

Yes, potentially. If you already receive VA benefits or services (disability pay or health care services) for conditions related to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, the court awarded relief will be offset by the amount of any disability award, payment, or other benefit VA provided to you related to your exposure at Camp Lejeune.



**What if I file for VA disability AFTER I receive an award from my lawsuit brought under CLJA, will VA reduce my benefits as a result?**

No. Any action you take or award you receive under the CLJA will not influence VA's decision to provide you benefits or health care based upon your exposure or the amount of compensation you receive from VA.

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## How can I find the status of my CLJA case?

The Department of Justice established a phone number and email address for anyone with questions regarding the status of cases filed in Federal court under the CLJA. The phone number is (202) 353-4426, and the email is [camplejeune.pactact@usdoj.gov](mailto:camplejeune.pactact@usdoj.gov).



## I've heard scammers are taking advantage of CLJA to commit fraud. How can I avoid these fraudsters?

Lawsuits under the CLJA are not related to VA benefits claims, and a lawsuit is not required to receive VA compensation benefits related to Camp Lejeune presumptive conditions. Veterans should be cautious of companies that advertise that VA benefits cannot be obtained without their help. VA and Veterans Service Organizations do not charge fees for assisting claimants in filing disability compensation claims. Check out organizations that provide free assistance with claims for VA benefits at [www.VA.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](http://www.VA.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp). To report suspected fraudulent activity involving VA benefit claims, please contact [vaoighotline@va.gov](mailto:vaoighotline@va.gov) or call (800) 488-8244.



## My spouse served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and we lived on Camp Lejeune during the impacted times. He has since passed away. What are my options under the CLJA?

Under the CLJA, anyone who resided, worked, or was otherwise exposed (including in utero exposure) to water at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, may bring an action in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina to obtain appropriate relief for harm that was caused by exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune.

Claims under the CLJA must be filed initially with the Department of the Navy. Information on filing CLJA claims for personal injury or wrongful death can be found at: [www.jag.navy.mil/organization/code\\_15\\_Camp\\_Lejeune\\_Claims.htm](http://www.jag.navy.mil/organization/code_15_Camp_Lejeune_Claims.htm)



## I am a family member of a Veteran, and I believe I was exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune – what are my options?

In addition to filing a claim under the CLJA, VA may be able to provide you with benefits and health care for certain conditions. VA will provide payment or reimbursement for hospital care and medical services provided to a Camp Lejeune family member by a non-VA provider in certain situations. Contact VA to discuss your options.



## Will VA treat my Camp Lejeune contaminated water related health care conditions without a lawsuit or disability claim?

Yes, you do not need court awarded relief or a VA compensation benefits decision for VA to provide health care services needed to treat related illnesses if you meet eligibility requirements established in law. Contact VA immediately to understand the resources available to you.



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