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STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

January 2, 2015

WDVA Bulletin No. 1021

TO: County Veterans Service Offices

SUBJECT: Updated Wisconsin Disabled Veterans and Unremarried Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit Application Booklet and Forms

The WDVA B0106 booklet (Wisconsin Disabled Veterans and Unremarried Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit) has been updated to reflect the changes imposed by 2013 Act 20 Section 1348 on Wisconsin Statutes 71.07 (6e) (a)2.d, and is available on the WDVA website for immediate use. You can print off the entire booklet by clicking on the Word or PDF icon to the right of the listing on WDVA's Forms page.

Eligibility for the WI Veterans Property Tax Credit is a two part process: (1) The WDVA certifies that the "veteran" is eligible, and (2) the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (WI-DOR) utilizes this determination to administer this program. A qualified veteran or unremarried surviving spouse certified as eligible by the WDVA must claim this benefit by filing a State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue (WI-DOR) Tax return FORM 1 or FORM 1A for any eligible year that they qualify for this benefit. The first year of eligibility will appear on your certification form. The Veteran or unremarried surviving spouse may go back and claim the benefit by filing an amended return form if one has not already been filed for that particular eligible year. The Veteran or unremarried surviving spouse is allowed by WI-DOR Wisconsin Chapter 71 to claim the benefit for any prior unclaimed eligible year up to four years prior to the unextended due date of the current tax year. Note: the spouse cannot have remarried at any time after the original marriage to the qualified veteran, even if she or he is currently single.

Now available is the updated booklet (WDVA B0106) containing instructions and forms. The booklet contains:

- WDVA 2097 Request for Certification.
- WDVA 1805 Veterans Residency Affidavit.
- Request for Federal VA Tax Abatement Letter from Federal VA Milwaukee Regional Office.

For Veteran The Federal VA Milwaukee Regional Office will verify the veteran's status under 38 USC 1114 or 38 USC 1134 as:

- A veteran with a Federal VA rating of 100% SCD, or;
- A veteran having an individual unemployability (IU) rating, single or combined, of 100%.

For Unremarried Surviving Spouse The Federal VA Milwaukee Regional Office will verify:

- The veteran carried one of the ratings identified immediately above at the time of death, or;
- Following the death of the veteran the unremarried surviving spouse began to receive and continues to receive uninterrupted dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), as defined in 38 USC 101 (14).

The WDVA will <u>not</u> accept tax abatement letters dated prior to January 2, 2015 for eligibility determinations and all qualifying tax abatement letters from the Federal VA <u>must</u> be dated within one year of the application.

The links below will take you directly to the area on our main forms page where you can select which version of the form you want:

Full brochure = <u>http://www.WisVets.com/Forms#WDVAB0106</u>

WDVA 2097 = <u>http://www.WisVets.com/Forms#WDVA2097</u>

In an effort to expedite processing of an application we encourage CVSO's to do the following:

1. Enter the information legibly on the forms. Have the veteran or unremarried surviving spouse sign ALL appropriate forms.

2. FAX the Veteran or the Unremarried Surviving Spouse's "Request for Tax Abatement Form" to the Federal VA Milwaukee Regional Office Contact Team at: (414) 902-9449 ATTENTION: PUBLIC CONTACT TEAM

3. Scan the documents and attach them in an email as a PDF document.

4. Send the email with the attached PDF document(s) to WDVA at <u>madison.records@dva.wisconsin.gov</u>. While we recommend that all documents are properly scanned and delivered to WDVA via email, applications mailed to our office will continue to be processed in a timely and efficient manner.

Rather than printing a number of copies of the application in anticipation of future requests, print the most current version of the application by accessing the above link at the time of application.

If you have any questions, please contact David Rueth by phone at (608) 266-1309 or by email at <u>david.rueth@dva.wisconsin.gov</u>.