

State of Alaska  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

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**FACT SHEET**



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## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **The Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home in Palmer**

#### **What's the difference between the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home and the Alaska Pioneer Homes?**

The Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home in Palmer is one of the six Pioneer Homes in the state. It is the only Pioneer Home in Alaska recognized by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to receive per diem funding for veteran residents. All the Pioneer Homes are administered by the state Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes.

#### **What about my non-veteran spouse?**

Over time, the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home population will be 75 percent veteran pioneers and 25 percent non-veteran pioneers. Spouses will be accepted in non-veteran status along with other non-veteran pioneers. Fifty-nine of the 79 residents will be veterans.

#### **What happens to my place on the Pioneer Home waitlist if I change my home of first choice to the Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home in Palmer?**

The waitlist policy remains substantially unchanged. Veterans can change their home of first choice to Palmer and retain the date from their original application. If a veteran moves into the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home in Palmer and later wishes to transfer to another Pioneer Home, he or she must complete a new application, which is assigned a new application date. This is true for anyone who moves into his or her home of first choice and subsequently wants to move to another home.

#### **What is the value of my Veterans Affairs benefit as a percentage of the Pioneer Home rate?**

The VA will pay a Veterans Domiciliary Benefit of \$31.30 per day to the State of Alaska for qualified veterans who reside in the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home in Palmer. For an average month the value of the Veterans Domiciliary Benefit is \$939.00.

	<b>Level I</b>	<b>Level II</b>	<b>Level III</b>
<b>Monthly Pioneer Home Rate</b>	\$2,240.00	\$4,060.00	\$5,880.00
<b>VA Per Month Benefit (30 days)</b>	939.00	939.00	939.00
<b>Monthly Rate After VA Benefit</b>	\$1,360.70	\$3,180.70	\$5,000.70
<b>VA Benefit as percent of average</b>	42%	23%	16%

**How do I apply for the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home in Palmer if I'm already on the Pioneer Home waitlist?**

On the original application, the applicant stated whether or not he or she was a veteran. To assist in the application process as a veteran, the applicant must also complete the Veterans Addendum form. This information verifies eligibility for benefits and allows us to work with you to obtain the necessary documentation if you do not have it available yourself.

**How do I apply if I'm not on the waitlist?**

Complete both the regular Pioneer Home application packet and the Veterans Addendum form.

**Do I need to fill out everything on the Veterans Addendum?**

No. The form is designed to give us the information we need to assist you. If you are already enrolled or empanelled by the VA, please check the appropriate boxes. If you are not enrolled or empanelled, leave the boxes blank. If you have discharge documents, you can leave dates of service blank and merely attach your DD-214 or other discharge document. If you do not have a VA claim number, you may leave that section blank. The form provides information we need when we extend an invitation to you from the active waitlist, such as whether you may need assistance in getting enrolled, obtaining discharge documents or establishing your status as a veteran.

**What if I can't find my discharge documents?**

Call the Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes Veterans Liaison at (907) 465-5737 or one of the service officers listed below. They can assist you in completing a SF 180 requesting your discharge documents. You may also do this on-line at: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or the form may be obtained on line at: [www.va.gov/vaforms/](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/) or [www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/standard-form-180.html](http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/standard-form-180.html)

**If the state receives per diem payments on my behalf, what is the impact on my current VA benefits?**

In general, if the state receives per diem there should be no impact on your VA benefits. If you pay your care expenses out of your own pocket and you receive medical or retirement benefits, the per diem will not change those benefits. If you are on the Pioneer Home Payment Assistance Program, you will keep your eligibility for both per diem and your other VA benefits. Exceptions may apply and will be addressed on a case by case basis with the Veterans Liaison.

**Are there Federal forms to fill out?**

The state will complete the necessary forms to receive per diem payments on a resident's behalf. The veteran resident must submit two forms to the Veterans Liaison who will file them with the VA Medical Center in Anchorage. They are: a) VA Form 10-10EZ – Application for Health Benefits and b) VA Form 10-10SH – State Home Program Application for Care, Medical Certification. These forms are available on the web as follows: [www.va.gov/vaforms/](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/) Forms are also available from the Veterans Liaison or from any of the veteran service officers listed below. The VA Form 10-10EZ is an enrollment form. People enroll with the VA for several reasons. If the only reason you have to enroll is for per diem at the Veterans and Pioneers Home, you can wait until you receive an invitation to the Home. The veteran eligibility for per diem payments is determined and authorized by the VA Medical Center of jurisdiction. A VA physician reviews and authorizes the level of care.

**Who can help me with application forms?**

Call the Veterans Liaison for the Pioneer Home system. You can call (907) 465-5737 or Fax to (907) 465-4108. Someone will answer your questions about the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home application process. If you need specific assistance filling out a Veterans Affairs form, you may also contact one of the following service officers:

**ANCHORAGE:**

Brian Wilson, NSO

DAV

2925 DeBarr Road, Rm 3101

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Leon "Bertie" Bertram, DSO

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John R. Kelley, DSO

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2925 DeBarr Road, Suite 3106

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**FAIRBANKS:**

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**WASILLA:**

George Hausermann, DSO

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DAV

Wasilla Business Park

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Contact: Ross Soboleff, (907) 465-1611, Cell (907) 321-3838  
Jeff Kasper, (907) 465-8194, Cell (907) 321-3158