

Veterans Corner

Veterans Identification Card

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides eligible Veterans a Veterans Identification Card (VIC) for use at VA Medical Facilities. The VIC Card protects the privacy of Veterans' sensitive information, as it no longer displays the Social Security Number or Date of Birth on the front of the card. The VIC Card will only display the Veteran's name, picture, and special eligibility indicators – Service Connected, Purple Heart and Former POW, if applicable, on the front of the card. Only Veterans who apply for, and are eligible for VA medical benefits will receive the card.

The card is only for the purpose of identification and check-in for VA appointments. The VIC Card cannot be used as a credit card or an insurance card, and it does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA facilities. Veterans should safeguard their VIC Card similar to other identification cards that contain personal information. Veterans are warned to keep their VIC Card safe and secure. Some bar code readers, including those available as applications on cell phones, can scan the bar code on the back of the card, and reveal the Veteran's name and social security number. This could make the Veteran subject to identity theft if the card is lost or stolen.

Our office can assist you with the application form for VA medical benefits. You can also apply at the VA hospital in Fresno, or the VA clinic in Tulare. Our office is also working on a plan to issue Identification Cards to those Veterans that are not eligible for VA medical benefits. This card could be used to identify the Veteran as a Veteran for the purpose of local discounts, etc. If you have any suggestions for this plan, please let us know.

Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office website at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 582-3211, ext. 2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.