



County of San Bernardino
Department of Aging and Adult Services
(DAAS)

SCAM ALERT

Scam: U.S. Veterans Affairs Benefit Fees

Target: Elder Veterans

Unauthorized and non-accredited organizations may not be acting in your best interest when assisting you with your VA benefits and/or your confidential information. They call themselves “advocates” and are sending representatives to your senior center, assisted living facility, nursing home or community center or even calling you on the telephone or sending you flyers.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Center for Elder Veterans Rights warn that these groups have strategies designed to charge you unnecessary fees and obtain your confidential information. If you receive a request to purchase financial or legal services to make yourself eligible, or if someone asking you for your confidential information:

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs will never charge you fees!

Beware of companies charging fees!

Do not provide any information! Contact your local VA immediately!

Federal law states that there are only three types of individuals recognized to help Veterans with their benefits. These individuals must be accredited to represent Veterans by the VA General Counsel and include:

- Attorneys,
- Agents, and
- Representatives of VA recognized service organizations.

The County of San Bernardino Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers Federally-compliant, fully accredited representatives. They are your one-stop contact for VA benefits, designed to assist Veterans and their families with the application and receipt of their benefits and any other available services. Your local VA is able to provide you with accurate information regarding your claim. They will never charge a fee, these are **your** benefits! You may reach the County of San Bernardino VA toll-free at 1-866-472-8387.

**If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact
San Bernardino County Adult Protective Services (APS)
at 877-565-2020, or your local police department.**