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▶▶▶ December 2012 ◀◀◀

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GI Bill Benefits for Spouses

By Kevin M. Jackson, eHow

Contributor Most members of the armed forces may transfer GI Bill benefits to spouses.

The Department of Defense has initiated a groundbreaking policy in the use and eligibility requirements for the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Effective August 1, 2009, all armed service members that served at least ninety days on or after September 11, 2001, may transfer their GI Bill benefits to their spouse and children. In addition, service members that separated due to service-connected disability thirty days or less before September 11, 2001 may transfer their benefits as well.



Spouse Eligibility

- The spouse of a member of the armed services is eligible for the GI Bill benefits if the service member served on or before September 11, 2001. In events where couples divorce after the benefits are transferred, the divorced spouse is still eligible for benefits. However, the service member retains the right to revoke receipt of benefits at any time.

Transfer Details

- The eligible service member can transfer up to 36 months of Post/9-11 GI Bill benefits to their spouse. The benefits for education, training, certification and housing can be used at any time. However, if the service member is on active duty, the eligible spouse cannot receive the monthly stipend or the stipend for books and supplies.

This transfer of eligibility is good even after the service member completes active duty service. The eligible spouse can use the benefits up to fifteen years after the service member's date of separation from active duty.

Application Process

- The service member must first determine the eligibility of his spouse by completing the Department of Defense Transferability application. Upon approval of the Transferability application, the spouse of the service member can apply for benefits with the Veterans Administration by completing the Veterans Administration form 22-1990e. For more information, call 888-442-4551.