

Dated: October 5, 2020.

Jelessa M. Burney,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0556]

Agency Information Collection

Activity: VA Advance Directive: Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before December 7, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Brian McCarthy, Office of Regulatory and Administrative Affairs (10B4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to Brian.McCarthy4@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0556” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian McCarthy at (202) 615-9241.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's

functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Authority: Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521.

Title: Advance Directive: Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will, VA Form 10-0137.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0556.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Section 7331 of title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), requires, in relevant part, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon the recommendation of the Under Secretary for Health, prescribe regulations to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) patient care be carried out only with the full and informed consent of the patient, or in appropriate cases, a representative thereof. Based on VA's interpretation of this statute and our mandate in 38 U.S.C. 7301(b) to provide a complete medical and hospital service, we recognize that patients with decision-making capacity have the right to state their treatment preferences in a VA or other valid advance directive.

VA Form 10-0137, *VA Advance Directive: Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will*, is the VA recognized legal document that permits VA patients to designate a health care agent and/or specify preferences for future health care. The VA Advance Directive is invoked if a patient becomes unable to make health care decisions for himself or herself. Use of the VA Advance Directive is specified in VHA Handbook 1004.02, *Advance Care Planning and Management of Advance Directives*. Veterans' rights to designate a health care agent and specify health care preferences in advance are codified in 38 CFR 17.32. This regulation also obligates VA to recognize advance directives and to use the information contained therein when health care decisions must be made for a patient that has lost decision making capacity.

VA Form 10-0137 (both English and Spanish-English language versions) has a current OMB Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) clearance under OMB Control Number 2900-0556. In addition, 2900-0556 now includes the collection of a

“Close Personal Friend Statement” for incapacitated Veterans who have not completed an Advance Directive and are in need of health care. When a Veteran is incapacitated and does not have an Advance Directive, the VA regulations allow a statement to be submitted from a “Close Personal Friend” who will be responsible for making health care decisions on behalf of the Veteran. It is estimated that 300 such statements will be collected annually. VA seeks to renew the PRA clearance for the information collection under OMB Control Number 2900-0556.

VA Form 10-0137

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 171,811 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Once annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 343,622.

Close Personal Friend Statement

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 50 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Once annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

By direction of the Secretary.

Danny S. Green,

Interim VA Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk (OQPR), Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0500]

Agency Information Collection

Activity: Mandatory Verification of Dependents

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register**

concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before December 7, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to nancy.kessinger@va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0500" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Danny S. Green at (202) 421-1354.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501.

Title: Mandatory Verification of Dependents (VA Form 21-0538).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0500.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21-0538 is used to request verification of the status of dependents for whom additional compensation is being paid to veterans. Without this information, continued entitlement to the benefits for dependents could not be determined.

VA Form 21-0538 has been revised; (1) letter template removed as it was a duplicate of a VA cover letter already in

use, (2) the title has been changed from 'Mandatory Status of Dependents' to *Mandatory Verification of Dependents*, (3) Section II: Status Certification, was added to help delineate whether the veteran is needed to provide additional information on the status of their dependents, or not, (4) the form was changed to include *removals only* as these are dependents that have already been previously added to the veteran's benefits, as another collection is used to add dependents, and (5) an e-signature has been added to provide a digital format for online signatures. The burden estimate has also been decreased.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 29,233 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Once.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 175,400.

By direction of the Secretary.

Danny S. Green,

VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk (OQPR), Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2020-22282 Filed 10-7-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0875]

Agency Information Collection

Activity: VA-Guaranteed Home Loan Cash-Out Refinance Loan Comparison Disclosure

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular

information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. Refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0875".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Danny S. Green, Enterprise Records Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 421-1354 or email danny.green2@va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0875" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Public Law 115-174; 38 CFR 36.4306.

Title: VA-Guaranteed Home Loan Cash-out Refinance Loan Comparison Disclosure

OMB Control Number: 2900-0875.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: All-VA guaranteed cash-out refinancing loans must comply with the Act and AQ42. All refinancing loan applications taken on or after the effective date that do not meet the following requirements may be subject to indemnification or the removal of the guaranty. Failure to provide initial disclosures to the Veteran within 3 business days from the initial application date and at closing may result in indemnification of the loan up to 5 years. There are three categories of refinance loans; Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loans (IRRRL), TYPE I Cash-Out Refinance, and TYPE II Cash-Out Refinance.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 85 FR, 130 on July 7, 2020, pages 40737 and 40738.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 12,480 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 158,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

Danny S. Green,

VA Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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