



COUNCIL OF MILITARY VETERANS' ORGANISATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA

RAAD VAN MILITÊRE VETERANEORGANISASIES VAN SUID-AFRIKA

## **POLICY & GUIDELINES**

# **THE SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS (SRD) INITIATIVE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY VETERANS**

### **Purpose of the procedure document**

To acquaint all Manco Members of the CMVO as well as members of CMVO affiliated veteran organisations with the programme. To spell out processes and procedures regarding SRD.

### **Who is affected by this procedure document?**

CMVO members.

CMVO Member Organisations and Associations.

Military Veterans as defined in the Military Veterans' Act, and whose names are registered on the DMV's database. It is not necessary to belong to any military veterans' organisation to qualify for any of the benefits.

### **Background**

The Department of Military Veterans (DMV) was proclaimed in 2009 and established in 2010 to redress structural and administrative inadequacies in benefit and service provision to military veterans and to ensure that the unique needs of military veterans are provided for.

The Military Veterans Act 8 of 2011 mandates the provision of various non-contributory benefits to military veterans and/or their dependents. Whilst the act fundamentally improves and guarantees the provision of social assistance to deserving military veterans, it however falls short of addressing crisis situations military veterans often experience.

It is against this background and per Ministerial directive that a Social relief of distress (SRD) provision was introduced.

### **Policy Purpose**

Social relief of distress is short term material assistance provided to qualifying military veterans or their nominated dependents, who have insufficient means to address an immediate need. It is intended to address a crisis situation, over which the veteran and his/her nominated dependents have no control. It is not intended to address long term poverty.



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This initiative, is introduced in conjunction with The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). SRD is a short term material assistance to qualifying Military Veterans who have insufficient means to address immediate needs.

The relief is provided in the form of food parcels or vouchers for a period of three months. However, in extreme cases and with the motivation from a designated official, subject to the approval by the programme manager, the period for provision of relief may be extended up to a maximum period of twelve months. The provision is only applicable to military veterans who are not in receipt of any state pension.

## Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant must be a military veteran or dependent/s of a military veteran,
- The military veteran must be registered on the Department of Military Veterans database,
- A completed application form from the applicant indicating why they are applying for SRD, see **Appendix A**.
- If the military veteran is unemployed - attach an affidavit stating that the member is not employed and does not already receive a SASSA grant.
- If the military veteran is employed – attach a certified copy of the member's payslip,
- A report from a social worker with a description of the conditions warranting the provision of social relief of distress (in cases where applicant is requesting extension of benefit for longer than three months),
- The applicant must reside in South Africa.

## Eligibility Criteria

SRD may be provided to a veteran or his/her dependent if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- Refusal to provide assistance will cause undue hardship.
- Awaiting payment of approved military veteran's pension benefit.
- The Military Veteran (Breadwinner) has been admitted to an institution (Prison, Old age home etc) funded by the state and the nominated dependents are awaiting payment of half of the veterans pension.



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- The Military Veteran (Breadwinner) has been admitted to an institution (Prison, Old age home etc) funded by the state and the veteran is not eligible for the military veterans pension.
- The Military Veteran has been affected by a disaster and is not accessing any other social assistance from the state.

## How to apply

The following procedure will apply:

- Before a military veteran can apply for SRD he/she should meet the criteria.
- The following documentation is compulsory for the application to be processed:
  - Complete the application form in print and submit it to the Department of Military Veterans, Fax nr 086 2462 196 or by post to Dept of Mil Vet's, Private bag X943 Pretoria, 0001 (Attention : SESS Benefits/SRD)
  - Attach a certified copy of the applicants identity document.
  - If unemployed, obtain an affidavit stating that the veteran is unemployed and does not receive any governmental grant (SASSA grant).
  - If employed, attach a certified copy of the latest payslip to the application form.
- Applications will be processed and applicants will be notified by means of an SMS system to approach their nearest SASSA Office.
- The mentioned process should be repeated after 3 months if the veteran or dependent still require social assistance.

## Allocation of SRD

- It is very important to note that not all military veterans per definition will be entitled to Social Relief of Distress (SRD).
- The DMV will consolidate all applications and will do the verification w.r.t the Military Veterans Data Base. The information is provided to SASSA who will respond and indicate which of the veterans qualify for SRD.
- The DMV will inform the Qualifying Veterans by means of a SMS to visit their local SASSA office to be assisted with SRD.
- The DMV in conjunction with SASSA will keep record of veterans that receive SRD. The statistics will be utilized for future planning and budgeting.

## Associated forms and templates

Name	Explanation
Form SK51K	SRD Application form.



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## Owner of the policy

<b>Mil Vet Structure</b>	CMVO.
<b>Position</b>	MANCO members and affiliated member organisations. Convenor Pers Admin.

## Version Control

Date	Version	Description of update	Author / Reviewer
2016/08/11	1.0	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft	George Dicker



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## APPENDIX A



**military veterans**

Department:  
**Military Veterans**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 943  
PRETORIA  
0001

**APPLICATION FORM:**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY MILITARY VETERANS OR DEPENDANTS WHO APPLIES FOR SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS**

Have you applied for social relief of distress before?

Yes  No

If yes, what is your application reference number and why are you applying again?


*(Part 1 and 2 to be completed by the applicant)*

**PART 1: PERSONAL DETAILS**

1.1	Surname	
1.2	Full name	
1.3	Title	
1.4	Marital Status	
1.5	Identity/Passport Number	
1.6	Home Address	
1.7	Postal Address	
1.8	Contact Numbers (Tel)	
1.9	Contact Numbers (cell)	

Names of Military Veterans' Dependants			
Name	Relationship	Date of Birth	Identity Number



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## PART 2: ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

2.1	Date of birth	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	D	D
2.2	Are you resident in South Africa?	Yes				No			
2.3	If not, provide details of your residence								
2.4	Are you employed?	Yes				No			
2.5	If yes, what is your income in Rand value/	R				(per month)			
2.6	Are you receiving any other pension?	Yes				No			
2.7	If yes, provide information on source of pension and amount per month								
2.8	Have you attended a financial advice session?								
2.9	If yes, where and when?								
2.10	If no, when are you available to attend in the next two months?	Yes				No			

## PART 3: REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Please attach the following documents:

**Certified copies of:**

- Identity document.
- Marriage certificate.(If applicable)
- If unemployed, an affidavit stating that applicant is unemployed and does not already receive a SASSA Grant.
- If employed, attach a certified copy of latest payslip.
- Proof of residence.
- Latest Bank Account statement, if self-employed.
- Social Workers report in cases where applicant is requesting extension of benefit for longer than **Three** months.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Official's Signature

Date of issue: 11 Aug 2016

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