



Disabled Veterans & Former POWs 5-Year Free License Application

For more information, call 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543)

Ohio Revised code 1533.12 provides for eligible resident disabled veterans and former prisoners of war to receive a fishing license, hunting license, fur taker permit, deer permit, wild turkey permit, or wetlands habitat stamp, or any combination of those licenses, free of charge.

Application Instructions

1. Complete the Applicant Information section including the complete SSN and determine eligibility by checking yes or no to all eligibility statements.
2. Sign the application and mail it to the Veterans Affairs office in Cleveland for eligibility certification.
3. Applicants will receive a letter of notification from the Division of Wildlife when approved.

Applicant Information

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-------------------|-------|-----------|---------------|
| Customer ID# | | Social Security # | | VA File # | |
| First Name | MI. | Last Name | | | |
| Street Address | | | | | |
| City | | | State | ZIP | Date of Birth |
| Email Address (optional) | | | | Phone # | |

Eligibility Applicants must be an Ohio Resident and answer yes to all statements associated with an eligibility option to be approved

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|--|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ALL APPLICANTS | I have resided in the state of Ohio for the last six consecutive months. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ELIGIBILITY - OPTION 1 Permanently & Totally Disabled You must answer Yes to all three statements to qualify | I received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States of America. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| | I have a disability that has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently AND totally disabling. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| | I receive a pension OR compensation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ELIGIBILITY - OPTION 2 Disabled Veterans License Plates | I am a veteran to whom the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a set of "Disabled Veterans License Plates" under section 4503.41 of the Ohio Revised Code. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| ELIGIBILITY - OPTION 3 Former Prisoner of War | I am a former "prisoner of war", meaning I was a member of the U.S. armed forces, captured, separated, and incarcerated by an enemy of the United States and received an honorable discharge from military service. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

- If approved, you must ANNUALLY obtain your licenses from a license agent or the internet during the 5-year approval period.
- If your residency or eligibility status changes during the 5-year period you must notify the Division of Wildlife.

Applicant Signature

Date

Mail your application to: Eligibility Verifications
Department of Veterans Affairs, 1240 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44199-2001

Certification of Eligibility (To be completed by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)

Certify the veteran is eligible for licenses, permits, and stamps provided under ORC 1533.12 (B)(1) or 1533.12 (B)(5) by signing below.

Veterans Affairs Officer Signature

Date

Forward certified applications to: Free License Program, Ohio Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G, Columbus, OH 43229-6693

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Ohio Revised code 1533.12 provides for eligible resident disabled veterans and former prisoners of war to receive a fishing license, hunting license, fur taker permit, deer permit, wild turkey permit, or wetlands habitat stamp, or any combination of those licenses, free of charge.

Eligible applicants will be approved for free Disabled Veteran licenses for a 5-year period from the date of notification. The licenses are only valid for the current license year and expire annually on last day in February. Each license year, the disabled veteran will need to obtain new licenses.

Application Instructions

1. Complete the Applicant Information section. The complete SSN is required for the VA to certify the application.
2. Determine eligibility by checking yes or no to all eligibility statements. To be eligible you must be able to answer yes to all questions within one of the Eligibility categories.
3. Sign the application
4. Mail the application for certification to:
Eligibility Verifications
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
1240 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44199-2001
5. After the Division of Wildlife receives the certified application from the VA, the applicant will be sent a letter of approval or a letter of denial.
6. Once approved, the applicant can obtain the free licenses and permits at any license agent or online at www.wildohio.com.

Be sure to sign your application!

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take for my application to be processed?

Depending on the time of year and number of applicants, approvals may be received in as short as 4 weeks, but it can take up to 12 weeks.

How can I reduce the time it takes to be approved?

Apply for your licenses well in advance of when you want to hunt or fish. If that is not possible, then follow these steps:

1. Ensure the application is complete. All boxes associated with an eligibility option must be checked and the application must be signed. Incomplete applications will be returned.
2. Four weeks after sending the application to the VA, call the Division of Wildlife at (800) 945-3543 to check on the status of the application. If approved, you can be notified verbally upon inquiry.

What is my Customer ID?

This is the number which identifies your account with the Division of Wildlife. The number is located at the top of any hunting or fishing license. If you do not have a Division of Wildlife customer ID number, then leave it blank.

What is a VA file number?

The VA file number is a number used by the VA to look up a veteran's account. The VA requires either the Social Security Number or the VA file number to certify applications.

Why do I need to supply my SSN?

The SSN or the VA file number is required for the VA to certify a veteran's eligibility. In addition, the SSN is required upon obtaining a fishing or hunting license.

Why do I have to fill out an application if I have my paperwork from the VA?

Ohio Revised Code 1533.12 provides for the free licenses, permits, and stamps when application is made to the chief in the manner prescribed by and on forms provided by the chief. The forms are not a substitute for a license.

I am a disabled veteran receiving benefits, but I am not rated as permanently and totally disabled. Why don't I qualify?

The VA rates veterans with a service related 100% disability as permanently and totally disabled. Any rating less than 100% is not permanent and total. In addition, disabled veterans must receive pension or compensation to be eligible.

Will I receive a free Wetland's Habitat Stamp?

Eligible disabled veterans and former POW's will may obtain a free Wetland's Habitat Stamp endorsement, but they will not receive the printed stamp. If you wish to pay for the printed stamp, please call (800) 945-3543.