

PTSD treatment can change lives.

If someone close to you has PTSD, **you are not alone**. You can help your loved one heal, strengthen your relationship & take care of yourself, too.

Educate Yourself About PTSD

If PTSD is putting a strain on your family or relationship, start by educating yourself about PTSD. The National Center for PTSD publication [Understanding PTSD: A Guide for Family and Friends](#) is a good place to start.

When your loved one is experiencing intense PTSD symptoms, like anger or nightmares, comfort and reassure them. Help them by allowing them to feel what they're feeling in the moment.

Dr. Matthew Yoder, a psychologist with the National Center for PTSD, also encourages families and partners to learn how to communicate with their loved one after the trauma. Ask your loved one to describe their feelings. Tell them what you are trying to do to help. If you are open, honest, and supportive, your loved one may feel like they can also be honest with you.



Encourage Treatment

Most importantly, encourage your loved one to get treatment. Every VA medical center offers effective, evidence-based treatments in the form of [talk therapy](#) and [medication](#).

By getting therapy, Rick Collier found that *"through being open and honest about who I am and starting to feel comfortable with myself, I'm starting to live and feel all those emotions with my family."*

Each family is different, and each family may cope with PTSD in a loved one in their own, unique ways. Despite the differences, all families have the best chance of moving forward if they encourage treatment and focus on getting their loved one better.

New VA health care rules: Trump overreach or more choice for vets?

WASHINGTON – The fight over privatizing Veterans Affairs health care is about to escalate. On Wednesday, department officials released their first public draft of new rules regarding which veterans will be eligible for private-sector medical appointments covered by taxpayer funds. The rules amount to a massive expansion of those outside care options, potentially adding more than 1 million more patients to community care program



A patient walks down a hallway at the Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Medical Center in North Carolina in March 2015. Critics and supporters of plans to expand veterans access to private-sector medical appointments are gearing up for a new round of fights after the release of new draft community care rules this week. (Patrick Semansky/AP)

Almost immediately, critics attacked the plan as an overreach by **President Donald Trump’s administration** to shift patients and funding from the federal veterans medical system to the private sector, in an attempt to undermine government backed health care. House Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano, D-Calif., has promised a public hearing on the issue in coming weeks.

“Rather than working to find an equilibrium within the system by building up VA’s ability to deliver high quality care, ... today’s announcement places VA on a pathway to privatization and leads Congress to assume the worst,” he said in a statement after the rules release.

But VA officials are calling those reactions nothing more than hyperbolic partisanship, and they said the new rules are designed to give veterans more options, not undermine the existing system.

They also insist that the changes won't significantly alter how the majority of veterans in America get their care, since many are satisfied with their current care plans. The small percentage who aren't will now enjoy more choices, with the government picking up the bill.

"Most Americans can already choose the health care providers that they trust, and President (Donald) Trump promised that veterans would be able to do the same," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie

Man who reportedly swindled veterans out of retirement and disability pay for 7 years fined \$1

By: J.D. Simkins



The total settlement amount one man had to pay after bilking veterans out of their retirement and disability pay raised some eyebrows. (Mark Lennihan/AP)

A man accused of issuing cash-advance loans with excessively high-interest rates to veterans while disguising the transactions as interest-free sales was ordered to pay a settlement after it was determined he "caused substantial injury" by swindling veterans out of their disability and retirement pay.

Serving as a financial agent for several lending companies from 2011 to 2018, Mark Corbett would reportedly offer to send lump sum payments to veterans — some payments were in the tens of thousands of dollars — in exchange for receiving all or part of the veteran's monthly pension or disability payments for a period of five to 10 years, according to a [Jan. 23 consent order](#).

And what did the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau deem to be a necessary settlement for these fraudulent transactions? One dollar, which he was comically ordered to pay within 10 days via wire transfer or else suffer the accrual of interest on said dollar.

The minuscule sum “accounts for Corbett’s inability to pay more based on sworn financial statements that he provided to the Bureau and Corbett’s ongoing cooperation with the Bureau’s investigation,” the order said.

Bilk veterans out of disability and retirement pay for seven years? Your settlement, sir, is a McChicken sandwich.

The bureau concluded in its investigation that Corbett never accurately conveyed the exorbitant interest costs the veterans would incur after signing the contract. Instead, he would reportedly frame the exchange as a sale.

“Please keep in mind that this is not a loan,” the new seller information packet Corbett would send veterans read. “You are selling a product for a set price.”

Additionally, Corbett ignored a federal law that prevents pension payments from being reassigned to another party, one that would have voided contracts Corbett put in place requiring veterans to go into their VA or DFAS online portal and rewire their direct deposits into accounts controlled by the companies he worked for.

Multiple veterans reportedly complained to Corbett that such transactions were illegal, but he would repeatedly reassure them no law was being broken, the report said.

The names of Corbett’s employers were withheld from the report.

Veterans were also required, as part of the contract, to purchase life insurance policies to ensure any outstanding amount would still be paid should that veteran die before full financial obligations were fulfilled.

As part of the ruling, Corbett has unsurprisingly been banned from “brokering, offering, or arranging agreements between veterans and third parties under which the veteran purports to sell a future right to an income stream from the veteran’s pension,” the order said.

An entirely separate 2017 federal lawsuit filed by three veterans, meanwhile, names Corbett as one who swindled them out of millions of dollars of retirement and disability pay, [Stars and Stripes reported](#).

It remains unclear what effect this ruling will have on that case.

The bureau partnered with the Office of Arkansas Attorney General and the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs for its investigation.

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[Sign up online to become an associate member](#). The annual associate membership of \$120.00 which can be used as a tax deduction for supporters. Registration fees can be paid online through

our PayPal account. You will get a free VFC T-shirt with your associate membership. Your tax deductible membership fee will support the VFC mission.

All Honorably Discharged Veterans are welcome to come and observe the VFC; feel free to ask questions and learn more. If we don't know the answer we know someone who does. Please browse our web site www.veteransforchristinc.org. There you'll find information on many subjects of interest to veterans. You'll also find a Newsletter for your branch of service and links to Social Security and many other links with an abundance of information.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Wesley Chapel Library at 2861 Wesley Chapel Rd., Decatur, Ga. Our meetings are the fourth Wednesday of every month and start at 6:00 (PM) for approximately one hour and a half, unless otherwise advertised. We will be respectful of your time.

Thank you for your interest in the VFC. We look forward to communicating and fellowshiping with you soon. We are looking for a corporate sponsor for our VFC Gerald Prince College Scholarship which is donated each September at our Anniversary Luncheon

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong." 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely,

William A. Harris, Jr.

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President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.
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