



**Ministry of Defense  
Disabled Rehabilitation Department**

# **Information for the wounded soldier**

**\*The booklet is addressed to males but is intended for both sexes**

**July 2018**

**Dear soldier,**

First and foremost, we wish that you get well soon and maintain good health. The Disabled Rehabilitation Department at the Ministry of Defense is a national entity which expresses honor, recognition and commitment for IDF's disabled according to the vision of David Ben Gurion, a vision that has served as the basis for the Disabled Law 1959. The department's workers act in order to **rehabilitate the IDF's disabled and integrate them into society**, while striving for optimal functioning and taking care of their welfare. The department's workers are committed to providing professional, fast, and humane service and are constantly striving to improve service.

Services for the IDF's disabled are provided through a broad range of workers and professionals including: rehabilitation workers (social workers), doctors, welfare workers, employment workers, and medical services workers. These services are provided in seven rehabilitation districts deployed throughout the country: Haifa, Tiberias, Dan, Tel Aviv, Rehovot, Jerusalem, Be'er Sheva, and in two extensions: Netanya and Eilat.

In this booklet we will provide you with information regarding the process through which you can exercise your right to submit a request for recognition of your rights according to the Disabled Law, as well as succinct information regarding the services, eligibilities, and methods of communication with the Disabled Rehabilitation Department. We hope that the information in the booklet will contribute to your understanding of your rights and the ways of realizing them.

The booklet is addressed to males but is intended for both sexes.

**Detailed information about the Disabled Rehabilitation Department can be obtained from the website whose address is:  
[www.shikum.mod.gov.il](http://www.shikum.mod.gov.il)**

For your convenience the Disabled Rehabilitation Department operates a call center which is at your disposal on Sunday to Thursday, between the hours of 08:00 – 18:00, at 03-7776777

We wish you a quick recovery  
With you with honor and appreciation  
The workers of the Disabled Rehabilitation Department

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Below is a description of the units making up the Disabled Rehabilitation Department, which act to recognize the injured person and treat the individual recognized as a disabled IDF veteran.

## The unit for submitting claims and determining eligibility

### The Disabled Law

The disabled rehabilitation department operates by power of the Disabled Law (compensation and rehabilitation), 1959 (consolidated version) (hereinafter in this document: "The Disabled Law"). According to the Disabled Law, a **"disabled person"** is a **discharged soldier who has suffered a disability due to his service, or a permanent service soldier who has suffered a disability**. A **"disability"** is the loss of the ability to perform a normal action, whether physical or mental, or a reduction in this ability, which was caused to a discharged soldier or a permanent service soldier as a result of one of the following events **that occurred during his service and as a result of it:** injury, illness, worsening of illness.

The unit for submitting claims and determining eligibility constitutes a gateway to the Disability Rehabilitation Department. The unit handles all stages of recognition, from the time of the injured person's submitting of the request for recognition, through the collection of relevant data, the examination of the causal link between the alleged event and military service, and up to the compensation officer's decision and notification of the medical committee's decision. The unit for submitting claims and determining eligibility handles requests for recognition in accordance with the provisions of the law.

**Appealing the decision of the compensation officer:** an injured person who considers himself aggrieved by any decision made by the compensation officer is entitled to appeal it before the appeals committee according to the Disabled Law, as will be explained in the body of the decision, which will be sent to the person submitting a request for recognition according to the Disabled Law.

### Disabled rights according to other laws

- If the disability was caused to a soldier by a civilian entity (which is not the state), for example in a traffic accident, it is possible to choose between compensation and rights according to the Disabled Law (compensation and rehabilitation) **or** compensation according to damages law.
- Receiving compensation from the civilian cause of the damage by power of the damages law constitutes a **waiver** of the right for recognition and any compensation according to the Disabled Law. If the entitled party received any payments from the Disabled Rehabilitation Department, the selection according to the civilian damages law will be given after returning all of the payments to the Disabled Rehabilitation Department.
- As with any citizen, the soldier is reserved the right to claim recognition of general disability according to the National Insurance Law.

## The process of submitting a request for recognition as a disabled IDF veteran

**Stage A:** Parallel to medical treatment provided at the hospital and in coordination with representatives from Yakar (formerly Ram 2) at the hospital or a casualties officer (on behalf of the IDF), the injured party will fill out a form requesting recognition according to the Disabled Law. The form can be received from Yakar representatives, a casualties officer or welfare officer in the Police, or download it from the Disabled Rehabilitation Department website. The filled out form together with a confidentiality waiver form and relevant medical documents will be transferred through a Yakar representative or the casualties officer to the unit for submitting claims and determining eligibility at the Disability Rehabilitation Department.



**Stage B:** After receiving the request for recognition at the unit for submitting claims and determining eligibility, a compensation officer will notify the injured person in writing about the granting of one of the following approvals, in accordance with the circumstances of the injury: approval for medical treatment only, temporary approval, or recognition in principal.



**Stage C:** the soldier's release from the IDF at the discretion of IDF representatives and in collaboration with the injured person. (excluding permanent service personnel).



**Stage D:** after the release from the IDF the treatment of the injured person and his family will be provided by the Disabled Rehabilitation Department through the district to whom he belongs and in accordance with the type of approval granted by the compensation officer.

At the Disabled Rehabilitation Department there is a liaison for the hospitalized wounded – a social worker by profession, who is in contact with Yakar representatives and the Police's welfare officers. Her job is to visit the wounded while he is hospitalized, get to know him, his family, and his needs as they arise from his wounded status. In addition, she must deliver information regarding the Disabled Rehabilitation Department, the process of submitting a request for recognition, and the assistance granted through the Disabled Rehabilitation Department.

## **The medical committees unit**

A disabled person whose request has been recognized by the compensations officer will be invited to appear before a medical committee to determine the degree of his disability. The role of the medical committee is to assess the disability for each injury recognized by the compensations officer in the unit for submitting claims and determining eligibility, for a fixed or temporary period, and to express this disability in disability percentages according to the articles of the examinations file for determining degrees of disability.

The members of the medical committee are independent specialist doctors appointed by the Defense Minister. The decisions are made based on the medical material and an examination of the wounded.

Every decision made by the regional medical committee can be appealed before the higher medical committee in accordance with the route determined by the disabled law and regulations. The higher medical committee has the authority to approve the decision, to overturn it, or to change it. It is possible, as needed, to add any person to the committee which the injured person thinks suitable to add such as a doctor, a commander, a parent, and so on.

In situations where the wounded is bedridden at a hospital, or unable to stand before the medical committee, the committee will convene at the hospital as necessary.

The higher committee's decision may be appealed at the regional court, exclusively concerning legal issues, in accordance with the appeals route determined by the disabled law and regulations.

## **The medical services unit**

The purpose of the medical services unit is to provide optimal medical treatment to IDF's disabled veterans and to rehabilitate them in order to enable their optimal reintegration into their families, society, and employment.

A hospitalized wounded soldier who had received one of the three types of approvals (see above) from the unit for submitting claims and determining eligibility and who has been discharged from the IDF will receive the medical treatment required due to his injury with the approval of a regional doctor.

The treatment includes: hospitalizations, ambulatory treatments, medical examinations, medicine and medical equipment, transportation to hospitalization or treatment facilities as defined in the Disabled Rehabilitation Department's regulations. These treatments are provided to the injured soldier in all of Israel's recognized medical institutions and based on a decision by a regional doctor. In extraordinary cases, we will also examine the need for medical treatment abroad.

A wounded person who had been recognized and given a disability degree of 20% and over is entitled to medical treatment for his recognized disability through the Disabled Rehabilitation Department. Medical treatment for wounded soldiers whose degree of disability is under 20% will be provided through the HMOs according to the National Health Insurance Law.

## The rehabilitation services unit

The central purpose of the Disabled Rehabilitation Department is to assist in the **rehabilitation** of the disabled person, in order to enable his optimal integration into society while creating suitable conditions for stable and continuous employment. This comes out of the understanding that integration into a working cycle contributes to social integration and self perception, as well as additional significant aspects.

IDF disabled veterans with a disability degree of 20% and over are entitled to assistance in rehabilitation, including: psycho-social therapy, guidance and assistance in consolidating a rehabilitation program and realizing it. The rehabilitation workers (social workers by profession), in the different rehabilitation districts, operate in coordination with the district's treatment team and the disabled person in order to advance rehabilitation processes. A rehabilitation worker is appointed to each injured person who has been recognized as a disabled IDF veteran and serves as a case manager (CM).

A substantial part of the personal and professional rehabilitation processes involves activities to strengthen internal and external resources in order to assist in coping with the disability and the changes derived from it. The rehabilitation workers and district's team of workers are at the disabled person's disposal in all that relates to his rehabilitation. The rehabilitation program is constructed based on skills, professional tendencies, referring to the recognized disability and in accordance with the law and the Disabled Rehabilitation Department's regulations.

## The compensation, benefits, and welfare unit

The unit's workers assist the disabled person in realizing his entitlements in the fields of welfare, granted to him by power of the law and in accordance with the department's regulations which change from time to time. Workers in the districts will notify the disabled person regarding the eligibilities and accompanying services to which he is entitled and guide him on how to realize them. Exercising the eligibilities is valid for the duration of the disabled person's life subject to the provision of the department and the instructions of the law.

A disabled with a disability degree of 20% and over is entitled to a basic monthly compensation. The level of compensation is determined according to the degree of his disability and is paid as obligated by law. A wounded soldier who is defined as a lone soldier (based on the IDF's approval) is entitled to a one-time grant in addition to the above.

A hospitalized injured individual is entitled to Medical Treatment Regulation (MTR) compensation under the following terms:

- Receiving recognition in principle and a discharge from the IDF
- Approval by a district doctor
- Approve by compensation officer

## Types of MTR compensations

Mandatory service hospitalized soldier – will receive monthly compensation in accordance with the regulations, from the date of his discharge from the IDF.

Reserve service hospitalized soldier working as a salaried employee – reception of compensation will start as of the day of his release from active reserve duty, at the average rate of his salary in the 3 months prior to his most recent recruitment, excluding the sum paid for income tax, as is customary in paying a regular reserve soldier.

Reserve service hospitalized soldier working as an independent worker – the compensation will be determined based on the most recent income tax assessment for the previous year.

Reserve service hospitalized soldier who is not employed – will receive a monthly compensation equal to that of a soldier released from mandatory service.

In the following chapter we will refer to the rights given to the family of a hospitalized injured soldier who has been recognized in principle.

## **Assistance for the family of the hospitalized injured (directive 84.04 of the disabled rehabilitation department)**

### **Reimbursement of travel expenses**

1. The rate of reimbursement for bus travel expenses will be according to the rate of public transportation, or of the Israel Railways.
2. If the relevant bus line has an “unlimited ride” ticket option, and over 20 trips are approved for the person per month – the rate of reimbursement will be according to the cost of an “unlimited ride” ticket.
3. The rate of reimbursement for private transportation expenses will be according to the rate of public service workers’ travel expenses, based on kilometers.
4. The wounded soldier’s family members who reside in Eilat (when the wounded soldier is not hospitalized there) will receive reimbursement for flights when presenting a flight ticket and original receipt (only) of payment.
5. The financial reimbursement is limited to a number of family members and dependent on the severity of the injury.

### **Reimbursement of economic expenses**

1. Reimbursement rates for: subsistence, breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be according to the meal rates, as determined from time to time, for public service workers.
2. The financial reimbursement is limited to a number of family members and dependent on the severity of the injury.

### **Reimbursement of expenses for staying at hotel**

The financial reimbursement is limited to a number of family members and dependent on the severity of the injury.

Coverage of accommodation and breakfast expenses following the approval of the Disabled Rehabilitation Department will be provided in one of two manners:

1. By financial obligation of the Disabled Rehabilitation Department
2. Monetary refund against a receipt, when the Disabled Rehabilitation Department does not have an agreement with the hotel and the family paid for the stay with its own finances/ in this case the refund will be subject to the rate determined by the Disabled Rehabilitation Department.

### **Reimbursement of babysitter / caretaker expenses**

1. Entitled to reimbursement – hospitalized injured soldiers, who have offspring or siblings under the age of 14, for hours when they are visited by their partner or parent.
2. The reimbursement will be granted from the day of injury / hospitalization, after reaching an agreement regarding the required timeframe with a district representative.
3. The expenses will be based on the caretaker's bill or according to a statement by the injured soldier's partner or parent.
4. The reimbursement will not exceed the hourly work rate determined in the provision.
5. The reimbursement will be only for the additional hours required due to the hospitalization and not for the total number of work hours. **Explanation:** if the family has a caretaker who works in the family home for 8 hours a day in routine and following the injury 4 hours were added to the work load, then the reimbursement will be only for the 4 additional hours.

### **Reimbursement of lost workdays for a family member**

Financial reimbursement for loss of salary will be approved to only one family member and is subject to the occurrence of all four of the following conditions at the same time:

1. Written approval by the employer which includes:
  - Detailing the duration of the family member's absence from his work, so long as this period took place during the injured soldier's hospitalization.
  - Approval that no salary had been paid for the aforementioned period.
  - Approval that no "family member illness pay" had been paid and that no demand had been made for its payment, for the aforementioned period.
2. A written statement by the aforementioned family member that he indeed spent the period at the hospitalized person's bedside.
3. A written approval from the department manager where the disabled person is hospitalized in a medical facility, attesting that the presence of the family member's constant presence at the hospitalized person's bedside is vital.
4. Approval of making use of sick leave / vacation, and the employer's approval that he intends to credit the worker for these days, against a receipt of payment from the Disabled Rehabilitation Department.
5. The financial reimbursement of lost work days will be counted from the date of injury / hospitalization, and relative to the days of absence per month. The financial reimbursement of lost work days will be based on approvals of income presented by the family member.

**The reimbursement of expenses will be provided based on an approval by the Disabled Rehabilitation Department and in accordance with:**

1. Defining the severity of the injury.
  2. Defining the requirement for family members to stay at the hospitalized person's bedside.
  3. Based on the hospital's medical approval
  4. A signed statement by a family member requesting reimbursement – this statement collects the issues of transportation, economy, and accommodation for the injured soldier's family members.
- Date of eligibility: the Disabled Rehabilitation Department handles the reimbursement of the wounded soldier's family members from the date of his release from mandatory / reserve service in the IDF (entitled who is still serving – is handled by the IDF).
  - The eligible family members: first degree family members (wife / husband, parents, brothers and sisters) residing and/or regularly visiting the hospitalized injured soldier.
  - Payment for the approved reimbursements will be transferred through the injured soldier's compensation, to the bank account whose details were submitted to the Disabled Rehabilitation Department.
  - Permanent service army personnel are only entitled to reimbursement of a family member's working days and babysitting expenses.



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