

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**[OMB Control No. 2900-0107]****Proposed Information Collection
Activity: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request****AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), 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. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to audit accountings of fiduciaries.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before September 30, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0107" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), 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.

Title: Certificate as to Securities, VA Form 21-4709.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0107.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA is required to supervise benefits paid to fiduciaries on behalf of beneficiaries who are incompetent or under legal disability. Supervision includes a requirement that the fiduciary account periodically for the funds he/she has received on behalf of the beneficiary. VA Form 21-4709 is used by estate analysts employed by VA to verify investment in savings bonds and other securities reported in the beneficiary estate.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Burden: 863 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per

Respondent: 12 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,316.

Dated: July 17, 2002.

By direction of the Secretary.

Genie McCully,

Acting Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 02-19173 Filed 7-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**[OMB Control No. 2900-0108]****Proposed Information Collection
Activity: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request****AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), 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. This notice solicits comments for information to determine eligibility for income-based benefits programs.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before September 30, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0108" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), 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.

Title: Report on Income from Property or Business, VA Form 21-4185.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0108.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The form is used to derive net income from property or business. The information is used to determine whether the beneficiary is eligible for VA benefits and, if eligibility exists, to determine the proper rate of benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 29,500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents:
59,000.

Dated: July 17, 2002.

By direction of the Secretary.

Genie McCully,

Acting Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 02-19174 Filed 7-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of Establishment of New System of Records.

SUMMARY: The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552(e)(4)) requires that all agencies publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of the existence and character of their systems of records. Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is establishing a new system of records entitled, "Alternative Dispute Resolution Tracking System-VA" (116VA09).

DATES: Comments on this new system of records must be received no later than August 29, 2002. If no public comment is received, the new system will become effective August 29, 2002.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or hand-deliver written comments concerning the proposed new system of records to the Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420; or fax comments to (202) 273-9289; or email comments to OGCRegulations@mail.va.gov. All relevant material received before August 29, 2002 will be considered. Comments will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frederic Conway (09), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. (202) 273-6743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Description of Proposed Systems of Records

VA is committed to the appropriate use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) for resolving conflicts and disputes. To monitor the use of ADR within VA, VA is creating an ADR tracking system. The proposed system

will capture information about the type and frequency of use of ADR within VA. It will track the number of times ADR is utilized, the types of disputes submitted to ADR, the length of time it took to use the ADR process, the outcome of the ADR and the degree of satisfaction of the users of ADR with the process. Collection and analysis of this data will enable VA to determine the effectiveness of the ADR program and identify areas for improvement.

VA will gather the information through a web-based tracking system. Individual ADR coordinators at the facility or regional level will enter data in the system. Regional levels are determined by the VA Staff Office or Administration involved. For example, the regional level in the Veterans Health Administration is the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) level. ADR coordinators will have individually assigned unique passwords to enter and access data, and will only be able to access the data that they enter. This information may be maintained locally by the ADR coordinator and will be maintained nationally by the Dispute Resolution Specialist (09).

The Categories of Individuals Covered by the System may include the ADR Coordinators, the individuals who conduct the ADR process, e.g., mediators and arbitrators, the individuals who requested ADR, the respondents, and the representatives of the ADR requesters and respondents. ADR requesters are any individuals who may use the VA ADR process and who seek to use ADR as a method to resolve disputes. Examples of ADR requesters may include management officials, VA employees, contract employees, or individuals who have filed a tort claim under the Federal Tort Claims Act based upon a claim allegedly involving VA or its employees. Respondents may be any individuals who have been asked to participate in an ADR process, such as management officials, co-workers, or contracting officers.

The Categories of Records in the System may include such information as: the name, grade and step of the ADR requesters and respondents; the type of ADR requested, e.g., mediation or arbitration; the source of the individual(s) conducting the ADR, e.g., another Federal agency; the grades and steps of the individuals conducting the ADR process; administrative data on the particular ADR case, e.g., date requested; date concluded and total hours spent on the ADR; the nature of the dispute, e.g., discrimination or harassment; the stage in the dispute in which ADR is inserted, the

jurisdictional forum in which the dispute was located when ADR was requested, any waiver of rights under 29 CFR part 1614, the terms of any settlement agreement, e.g., damages, attorneys fees, reassignment, and the satisfaction of the parties with the ADR process.

The Department is gathering this information for the following purposes. VA will use the information to track and monitor agency dispute resolution activities at the local level. VA also intends to analyze the data to evaluate ADR utilization VA-wide, identify agency ADR best practices, and determine whether certain forms of ADR may be more appropriate in various types of cases.

VA's policies and practices for storing, retrieving, accessing, retaining and disposing of records will be as follows. VA will store the ADR tracking system on a server located in a [enter site location and operator]. Records are indexed and retrieved by the names or identification numbers of the ADR program participants, such as the ADR requestors respondents, and mediators. The safeguards for the data limit access to only those individuals who either administer the ADR tracking system or serve as ADR coordinators. VA will retain and dispose of these records in accordance with the applicable records control schedule approved by the Archivist of the United States.

II. Proposed Routine Use Disclosures of Data in the System

VA is proposing to establish the following Routine Use disclosures of information maintained in the system:

1. Disclosure may be made to a Congressional office from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry from the Congressional office made at the request of that individual.

Individuals sometimes request the help of a Member of Congress in resolving some issue relating to a matter before VA. The Member of Congress then writes VA, and VA must be able to give sufficient information to be responsive to the inquiry.

2. Disclosure may be made to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in records management inspections conducted under the authority of Title 44 U.S.C.

NARA is responsible for archiving old records no longer actively used, but which may be appropriate for preservation; they are responsible in general for the physical maintenance of the Federal Government's records. VA must be able to turn records over to NARA in order to determine the proper disposition of such records.