

Resources for Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ+ Veterans

RESOURCE GUIDE • May 2024

Vivianne Mbaku, Director, Equity in Elder Justice, Justice in Aging

NATIONAL
CENTER ON
**LAW &
ELDER
RIGHTS**

Older LGBTQ+ Veterans have unique legal needs and may face barriers to accessing services and supports. The effects of now repealed policies like “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” still persist. Many LGBTQ+ individuals who have served in the military do not identify as Veterans and fear discrimination and prejudice when engaging with social services. This list of resources accompanies the NCLER webinar, [Strategies for Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ+ Veterans](#), and serves to assist advocates in familiarizing themselves with the challenges this community faces and provide person-centered services to LGBTQ+ Veterans.

Historical Context

- U.S. Department of Defense, Data Resources, [Don’t Ask Don’t Tell Resources](#)
- Veterans Administration, Blog, [Tenth Anniversary of the Repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell](#), September 20, 2021

Organizational Resources

- SAGE National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging
 - » Resource Guide: [Inclusive Questions for Older People: A Practical Guide to Collecting Data on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)
 - » Resource Guide: [Inclusive Services for LGBT Older Adults: A Practical Guide to Creating Welcoming Agencies](#)
 - » Webinar: [Plan Your Way to Better Inclusion of LGBT Elders](#)

Legal Issues Facing LGBTQ+ Veterans and Their Families

- SAGE/Legal Services Center Harvard Law School/NY Department of Veterans’ Services/Minority Vets, Informational Bulletin, [Are You the Same-Sex Surviving Spouse of A Deceased Veteran](#)
- National Center for Transgender Equality, Article, [Veterans Health Administration Care for Transgender Veterans](#)

- National Center on Law and Elder Rights
 - » Utilizing VA Benefits to Help Veterans Age in Place
 - [Recording](#)
 - [Slides](#)
 - [Resource Guide](#)
 - » Patching the Safety Net: Survivor’s Benefits for LGBTQ Older Adults
 - [Recording](#)
 - [Slides](#)
 - [Tip Sheet](#)
 - » Recording: [Strategies for Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ+ Veterans](#)

Lawyering Practices

- National Center on Law and Elder Rights
 - » Recording: [Trauma-Informed Lawyering](#)
 - » Recording: [Trauma Informed Lawyering—Effects of Secondary Trauma on Attorneys and Advocates](#)

Veterans Administration Resources

- Veterans Administration
 - » [LGBTQ+ Veterans-Mental Health](#)
 - » [LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator Nationwide Search](#)
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Resource Guide: [Getting Started with Services for LGBTQ+ Veterans](#)
- PBS News Hour, Ali Rogin, [How Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell has affected LGBTQ service members, 10 years after repeal](#), Dec, 22, 2022

Case consultation assistance is available for attorneys and professionals seeking more information to help older adults. Contact NCLER at ConsultNCLER@acl.hhs.gov.

This Resource Guide was supported by contract with the National Center on Law and Elder Rights, contract number HHSP233201650076A, from the U.S. Administration on Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.