



Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs
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RI DEPARTMENT OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS FRAUD ALERT

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SUBJECT: **2010 Fraud Alert No.-3: VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES**

KNOW THE FACTS! BE ALERT! DON'T BE A VICTIM!

FROM HOLLY PATRAEUS: VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICES:

At BBB Military Line we have received a number of inquiries about an email purporting to come from Michael Daugherty, an attorney at the VA, that is warning veterans against using the services of a group called Veterans Affairs Services. I checked with a contact at the VA and here is the response I got:

"We checked with Mr. Daugherty, who is an attorney in the VA Office of General Counsel, who reports the email did not come from his office. He said there is no current official communication by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding Veterans Affairs Services. Veterans seeking the assistance of a VA-recognized service organization for purposes of submitting a claim for VA benefits may search for VA-recognized organizations at the General Counsel's accreditation search page: <http://www4.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp>.

We're not sure where the email originated or the purpose, but again, it did not originate from VA."

I hope this information will be helpful to you if the email gets sent to you for dissemination. The good news is, even though the warning did not come from the VA, it may make veterans think twice before paying money or giving personal information to an unverified organization to "help" them with the VA claims process.

Holly Patraeus