



# USCG ARCTIC DISTRICT LEGAL BULLETIN



*Advice for Guardians of the Last Frontier*

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## **Note to the field: 2026 Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Applications Active through 31 March**

Alaskans, including service members, who are and were legal residents of Alaska for the full preceding calendar year may submit their applications for the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) through the end of March. Many Alaskans make filing for their portion of the Dividend during the filing period of 01 January through 31 March an annual task. If you have established Alaska residency for at least a full calendar year and would like to know how to apply for your dividend, read on.

Unlike other states in which mineral rights are individually owned, mineral rights in Alaska are owned by the state, managed collectively, and distributed to eligible Alaskans. To manage those resources, Alaskans in 1976 enshrined the Alaska Permanent Fund in the Alaska Constitution. The Permanent Fund Corporation manages the Fund's assets and distributes the dividends among eligible Alaskans. The dividend paid to all eligible Alaskans in October 2025 was \$1,000.

Timely application is critical to receiving the PFD - you must apply by 31 March. Applications are not available online after that date, and late applications will not be accepted without due cause.

While Alaska residents may apply for the PFD by paper, the primary method is an electronic application. Adults can apply online by logging into their myAlaska electronic signature account or creating a new one at [Alaska Department of Revenue - Permanent Fund Dividend](#). That option allows the applicant to sign electronically for himself or herself and for any children the applicant is sponsoring. First-time applicants and those unable to log on to their myAlaska Electronic Signature account can still apply online by selecting the printed signature page option.

In addition to a signature, first-time applicants must provide proof of U.S. citizenship and proof of Alaska residency. Acceptable proof of residency, in addition to physical presence in the state, includes registering to vote in Alaska, obtaining a driver's license in Alaska, registering a vehicle in Alaska, and shipping household goods to Alaska. Additionally, after establishing permanent residence, a service member must submit a Form DD-2058, State of Legal Residence Certificate, to ensure the Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) reflects Alaska as the state of residence no later than 31 December prior to the qualifying calendar year. Phrased differently, if the LES for *any* pay period in a calendar year reflects a state other than Alaska, the member is disqualified from receiving the PFD for that year.

To qualify for a 2026 Dividend, you must answer all the following statements affirmatively:

- I was a resident of Alaska during all of calendar year 2025;
- On the date I apply for the 2026 Permanent Fund Dividend, I have the intent to remain an Alaska resident indefinitely;
- I have not claimed residency in any other state or country or obtained a benefit of residency in another state or country any time since December 31, 2024;
- I was not:
  - Sentenced for a felony conviction during 2025;
  - Incarcerated any time during 2025 for a felony conviction; or
  - Incarcerated any time during 2025 for a misdemeanor conviction in Alaska if convicted of a prior felony or two or more prior misdemeanors since January 1, 1997;
- If absent from Alaska for more than 180 days, I was absent on an allowable absence; and
- I was physically present in Alaska for at least 72 consecutive hours at some time during 2024 or 2025.

Each dividend requires a separate application. For example, a married couple requires two applications to receive two dividends, and an adult sponsor must file on behalf of each child—a family of five needs five applications to receive five separate dividends. And each spouse must file independently, absent a signed power of attorney. Applications became available online beginning 01 January and will be available through 11:59 p.m. 31 March. Paper applications also are available statewide at distribution locations such as libraries and government offices.

Finally, there are a few caveats of note. First, if you do not really call Alaska home, do not file. Fraudulent application carries with it both civil and potential criminal sanctions. Also, keep in mind that the dividend is taxable as income on the federal income tax return, for both the children and the sponsor. But for Alaska residents, additional income, for heating oil or vacation, a new vehicle or even savings, is always a plus.

**Legal Assistance is a free benefit available to active-duty service members and their dependents and retirees and their dependents.**

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