

# The Camp Lejeune Justice Act

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Keller Postman actively fought for the passage of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act. Now that the CLJA is on the books, it will finally give victims access to the significant recoveries they deserve.

## **WHO**

The Act applies to any individual who “resided, worked, or was otherwise exposed (including in utero exposure) for not less than 30 days” between 1953 and 1987 to water at Camp Lejeune supplied by the government.

## **WHAT**

The Act allows affected individuals to bring an action for appropriate relief for harm caused by exposure to the water. It removes various legal barriers that prevented the government from paying compensation to victims.

## **HOW**

The Act requires affected individuals to first present their claim to the Department of the Navy, so it can investigate and attempt to settle the claim without litigation. If a client does not reach a settlement with the Navy, he or she can file a lawsuit in Court. However, it is critical that claims be properly filed in accordance with all relevant regulations. Otherwise, the government may be able delay plaintiffs’ day in Court.

## **WHEN**

The Act requires all lawsuits to be filed within two years of its enactment or 180 days after the Department of Navy denies the underlying claims.

## **AWARDS**

Victims can seek compensation for lost income, pain and suffering, medical costs, and other harms. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the government will pay victims \$21 billion under the Act.

## **VETERANS BENEFITS**

Bringing a claim under the Act will not threaten anyone’s VA benefits. Victims are entitled to pursue claims while still keeping their VA benefits. Indeed, the fact that someone has already been approved for VA benefits may help them recover more quickly under the Act.

