Apply for VA Survivor Benefits

This guide will help you identify VA survivor benefits and services you may be eligible for after your Veteran loved one has passed. It provides information about the different VA survivor benefits and programs available, contact information, required forms, application process, and where to find assistance.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Choose VA

A checklist to help Veteran spouses and/or dependents apply for survivor benefits:

1 PREPARATION

- □ Learn about different types of survivor benefits and services you and/or family members may be eligible for (see back for list)
- □ Collect the documents necessary to apply for survivor benefits:
  - → Veteran's Discharge paperwork (DD214 or other separation documents)
  - → Veteran's death certificate (copy)
  - → Proof of your relationship to Veteran (marriage certificate, birth certificates)

2 APPLICATION

- □ Apply by submitting all required documents, to include the applicable VA Form and the Veteran's death certificate, to the required servicing location (see back for more information) in one of these ways:
  - → Submit directly to the VA via QuickSubmit https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspSelectFor=quicksubmit
  - → Work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO). You can find a VSO at https://www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/find-rep/
  - → Go directly to your VA Regional Office (RO) for assistance. You can find your local RO at https://www.va.gov/find-locations.

3 NEXT STEPS

- □ Visit us online at https:www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status to track the status of your claim
- □ Provide more information/documentation if requested by VA
- □ If approved, take steps to access your awarded benefits

WHERE CAN I FIND A VETERAN'S SEPARATION DOCUMENTS?

To find the separation documents of the Veteran, you can visit https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records to request a copy of the DD214 or other separation documents of your loved one.

Surviving family members should make duplicate copies of all documents and retain them for their personal files before mailing them to a processing center.

Survivors can also receive free, in-person help preparing the claim from a VSO. Find an accredited VSO online by visiting: https://www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/find-rep/.

Survivors can also receive free, in-person help applying for benefits at a VA Regional Office.

Information a spouse or dependent(s) will need to know to file a claim and receive the survivor benefits they may be eligible for:

How would a spouse or dependent(s) know if they are eligible for VA survivor benefits?

Surviving family members can access detailed information to determine if they are eligible for survivor benefits that may be available by:

- → Visiting https://va.gov/survivors or https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits
- → Contacting VBA directly at 800-827-1000
- → Contacting the Office of Survivors Assistance via email at: officeofsurvivors@VA.gov

What benefits and services are available for surviving family members?

These are the benefits and services that may be available to eligible spouses and dependent family members.

BENEFITS

- □ Interment in a National Cemetery
- □ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA Form 21P-530EZ)
- □ Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA Form 21P-535)
- □ Survivor's Pension (VA Form 21P-534EZ)
- □ Dependent's Educational Assisstance Program (VA Form 22-5490)
- □ Fry Education Scholarship
- □ VA Home Loan Benefits
- □ Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)
- □ Memorialization and Legacy Programs– https://www.cem.va.gov/VLM/index.asp

SERVICES

- □ Confidential counseling services may be available at Vet Centers and VA Medical Centers (visit: https://www.va.gov/find-locations) and find the nearest resource facility or you can also call, text, or chat for help at the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 then press 1, or text 838255.
- □ Educational and Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (VA Form 28-8832)
- □ Beneficiary Financial Counseling Service. Insurance beneficiaries can receive services for two years from date of payment at no charge.

Visit https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits or for more information call 800-827-1000.

OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

As a surviving spouse am I eligible for health care?

VA offers Civilian Health and Medical Program of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) health care coveralge to family members who meet specific eligibility criteria. CHAMPVA is a comprehensive health care program through which VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries in a similar manner to Medicaid and TRICARE. For more information, call myVA411 at 800-698-2411 or visit https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/champva.

What is the difference between DIC and SBP?

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is an entitlement benefit paid to eligible survivors (spouse, unmarried child or possible parent) of certain deceased Service members and Veterans that meet specific criteria. DIC is managed by VA. To learn more about DIC, please visit https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation.

The Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) is a voluntary annuity program offered for purchase to Service members as a retirement benefit for family members and is managed by the Department of Defense (DoD). Service members who die on active duty and who have never contributed to SBP are automatically covered. Participation in this program is voluntary and not all Service members opt to participate. To learn more about SBP, please visit https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.

Where can I find information about Burial Benefits?

https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/

Where can I find more details about Survivor Benefits?

https://www.va.gov/files/2024-11/survivor-benefits-guide.pdf