

I AM A...

Select One

- Transition and Economic Development
- Compensation**
  - Compensation Home
  - Types of Compensation
  - Types of Claims
  - Claims Process
  - Evidence Requirements
  - Compensation & Pension Exam
  - Effective Dates
  - Fully Developed Claims
  - Decision Ready Claims
  - Apply
  - Benefit Rates
  - Add a Dependent
- Education & Training
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
- Home Loans
- Life Insurance
- Pension
- Appeals Modernization
- Special Groups
- Services
- Applying for Benefits
- Locations
- VBA Performance
- Media and Publications
- About VBA

# Compensation

## Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military Servicemembers who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.

### Eligibility (Surviving Spouse)

- To qualify for DIC, a surviving spouse must meet the requirements below.
- The surviving spouse was:
- Married to a Servicemember who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, **OR**
  - Validly married the Veteran before January 1, 1957, **OR**
  - Married the Veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the Veteran's death began or was aggravated, **OR**
  - Was married to the Veteran for at least one year, **OR**
  - Had a child with the Veteran, **AND**
  - Cohabited with the Veteran continuously until the Veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, **AND**
  - Is not currently remarried

Note: A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive DIC.

### Eligibility (Surviving Child)

- Not included on the surviving spouse's DIC, **AND**
- Unmarried, **AND**
- Under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

Note: A child adopted out of the Veteran's family may be eligible for DIC if all other eligibility criteria are met.

### Evidence Required

- Listed below are the evidence requirements for this benefit:
- The Servicemember died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, **OR**
  - The Veteran died from an injury or disease deemed to be related to military service, **OR**
  - The Veteran died from a non service-related injury or disease, but was receiving, **OR** was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling
    - For at least 10 years immediately before death, **OR**
    - Since the Veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, **OR**
    - For at least one year before death if the Veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999

### How to Apply

- Complete [VA Form 21P-534ez](#), "Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child" and mail to the [Pension Management Center](#) that serves your state, **OR**
- Work with an [accredited representative or agent](#) **OR**
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our [Facility Locator page](#) **OR**
- If the death was in service, your Military Casualty Assistance Officer will assist you in completing [VA Form 21P-534a](#), "Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child" and mail to the [Philadelphia Regional Office](#)

For more information on how to apply and for tips on making sure your claim is ready to be processed by VA, visit our [How to Apply page](#).

[return to top](#)

### RESOURCES

- [Appeals Modernization](#)
- [Military Sexual Trauma Coordinators](#)
- [Agent and Attorney Fee Coordinators](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Benefits A-Z](#)
- [Federal Benefits Guide](#)
- [Benefit Rates](#)
- [VA Code of Federal Regulations](#)
- [New/Update Military ID Card](#)
- [Claims Adjudication Procedures Manual/Live Manual](#)
- [Link to subscribe to receive email notice of changes to the Live Manual](#)

### SUBSCRIBE TO VA'S MONTHLY BENEFITS NEWSLETTER

Subscription Type

Email

\*Email Address

Submit

### CONNECT WITH VA BENEFITS

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [Instagram](#)

[B](#) [Email](#)



Access Your VA & DoD Benefits 24/7

[www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

### Veteran Programs and Services

- [Homeless Veterans](#)
- [Women Veterans](#)
- [Minority Veterans](#)
- [PTSD](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Adaptive Sports and Special Events](#)
- [National Resource Directory](#)

### More VA Resources

- [Find a VA Form](#)
- [Get VA Mobile Apps](#)
- [Careers at VA](#)
- [Doing Business with VA](#)
- [Grants Management Services](#)
- [VA Claims Accreditation](#)
- [Find a VA Health Care Provider](#)
- [Veterans Service Organizations \(VSO\)](#)
- [State Veterans Affairs Offices](#)
- [Print Your VA Welcome Kit](#)

### Get VA Updates

- [VAntage Point Blog](#)
- [Email Updates](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Flickr](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [All VA Social Media](#)

### In Crisis? Get Help Now

[Veterans Crisis Line](#)

### Contact Us

[Find a VA Location](#)

[Ask a Question](#)

**Call MyVA311:**

[1-844-698-2311](#)

TTY: 711