



# *Burial Benefits/Death Benefits*

Compensation and Pension Service  
Veterans Benefits Administration



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## Overview

- DIC
- Death pension
- Burial Benefits



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## Dependents Indemnity Compensation

- Dependency Indemnity Compensation (US Code Title 38 Chapter 13) is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of certain veterans. A survivor eligible for DIC may also be qualified for the **Aid and Attendance** or **Housebound** supplement. These supplements are paid in addition to the base payment, and provide a small additional income for persons who either need daily assistance with everyday living tasks or are substantially confined to their home. The survivor may receive either Aid and Attendance or Housebound, not both.

# Compensation Rates for Dependency Indemnity Compensation



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- The total monthly compensation (click [here](#) for current rate tables) will depend upon a variety of factors, including the number of dependents and any Aid and Attendance or Housebound supplements. For example, a surviving spouse of a veteran who was rated as 100 percent disabled for at least 10 years, was married to the veteran for at least 8 years, has not remarried, and has 2 dependent children would have received \$2654.79 per month in 2021. DIC flat rate is \$1,357.56
- **DIC payments are not affected by any other income, with the exception of Survivor's Benefit Plan income from the veteran's military retirement program.** SBP is reduced dollar for dollar for payments received from DIC (US Code Title 10 § 1450(c)).

# Veteran Service Requirements



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- A survivor of a military service member can be eligible for DIC if
- the member died while on active duty, OR
- the member was a veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, OR
- the member was a veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who 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.

# Spousal Eligibility



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- The surviving spouse is eligible for Dependency Indemnity Compensation if he or she:
- validly married the veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
- was married to a service member who died on active duty, 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.\*
- A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive Dependency Indemnity Compensation. A surviving spouse who terminates a second marriage can reapply for DIC



# State Benefits for Survivors

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- Reduced Car Tag
  - Un-remarried
  - The Veteran was at least 50% at time of death
  
- Property Tax exemption
  - If the spouse remains un-remarried
  - The Veteran was permanent and total before they passed



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# *Death Pension*

**Death Pensions** A spouse who has not remarried or an unmarried child of a **deceased** wartime military veteran is eligible for a **death pension** administered by the **VA**. The **death pension** is needs-based and entitled only to dependents with an annual income below a yearly limit set by law.

# Burial Benefits



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- Under the current regulations, VA pays for burial and funeral expenses on a reimbursement basis, which requires survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally pays at the maximum amount permitted by law.
- The new burial regulations will permit VA to pay, at a flat rate, burial and plot or interment allowances thereby enabling VA to automate payment of burial benefits to most eligible surviving spouses and more efficiently process other burial benefit claims.
- The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

# Service-related Death



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- VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001, or up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 11, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

# Non-service-related Death



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- VA will pay up to \$796 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after October 1, 2019 (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$796 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance. For deaths on or after April 1, 1988 but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (for Veterans hospitalized by VA at the time of death).
- An annual increase in burial and plot allowances for deaths occurring after October 1, 2011 began in fiscal year 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.



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# Eligibility Requirements

- You paid for a Veteran's burial or funeral, **AND**
- You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased Veteran's employer, **AND**
- The Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, **AND**
  - The Veteran died because of a service-related disability, **OR**
  - The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, **OR**
  - The Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, **OR**
  - The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, **OR**
  - The Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, **OR**
  - The Veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, **OR**
  - The Veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.
- **NOTE:** VA does not pay burial benefits if the deceased:
  - Died during active military service, **OR**
  - Was a member of Congress who died while holding office, **OR**
  - Was a Federal prisoner

28 April 2021



*Questions ?*