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| ***Survivor Benefits Checklist*** | |
| **VA**  **1-800-827-1000**  **\*Call anytime to check the status of your claim; Average claim takes about 3-6 months but processing time may vary from case to case.** | * **Appointment of VSO as Claimant’s Representative/POA (21-22)** * **Application for DIC, Death Pension, and Accrued (21-534ez)** * **Accrued (21-601 - only when no 21-534ez is submitted)** * **Substitution (21-0847 Only if claim was still pending)** * **Aid & Attendance/Housebound (21-2680)** * **Third Party Consent (21-0845)** * **Burial Benefits (21P-530 - burial allowance, plot, transportation)** * **Headstone/Marker (40-1330 and 40-4964-or or 40-1330M)** * **Presidential Memorial Certificate (40-0247 - only if**   **not previously submitted on 40-1330 Headstone app)**   * **Burial Flag (27-2008 - only if not previously issued)** * **VA Life Insurance** * **Contact OSGLI if policy for SGLI or VGLI: 1-800-419-1473**   **and submit SGLV 8283**   * **Contact the VALI if policy for VALI, SDVI, VMLI or any other policy number that begins with a V, RH, J, RS, K or W 1-800-669-8477 and submit 29-4125 for lump sum** |
| **DFAS**  **(for retirees only)**  **1-888-332-7411**  **\*If you do not hear from DFAS in 30 days - call to check the status of your claim!** | * **Arrears of Pay SF1174**   (Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Service (aka the final pro-rated retirement pay for the month of death)   * **Survivor Benefits Packet (SBP)**   - DD2656-7 Verification of Survivors Annuity  - W-4P Withholding Certificate for Pension/Annuity  - SF1199A Direct Deposit |
| Referral: | * **Social Security Administration (SSA)**    + Report the death & ask about benefit apt   + [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)   + 1-800-772-1213 * **DEERS ID Card Section**    + **BOOK APT ONLINE TODAY:** <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/locator> * **Army Emergency Relief (AER) (financial hardship)**   + <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/offices/> * **Dept of Human Services (DHS) (financial hardship)**   + <https://faonlineapp.dhs.tn.gov/>   1-833-772-TDHS (8347) |
| Report the Death to VA, DFAS and SSA  Upon notification of death, these agencies will stop all monthly payments to prevent an overpayment.  Call each agency individually to report the death. Please have the decedent's Social Security Number and the date of death when you call. | |
| Accrued Benefits & Substitution of a Claimant  Accrued benefits are benefits that are due to the beneficiary based on an existing decision on a claim for benefits or evidence in the Veteran’s claim file at the date of death, but not paid prior to death **(this includes the month of death payment that may have been recouped after reporting the death)**. **Substitution** is a type of accrued benefit. If a Veteran or other claimant dies while his or her claim or appeal is pending, a person eligible to receive accrued benefits may substitute for the Veteran or other claimant to process the claim or appeal through to completion. | |
| 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. | |
| Survivors Pension  The Survivors Pension benefit, which may also be referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service. | |
| Aid & Attendance and Housebound  Survivors who are eligible for a VA benefit and require the **aid and attendance** of another person, or are **housebound**, may be eligible for additional monetary payment. These benefits are paid in **addition** to monthly DIC or pension; they are not paid without eligibility to DIC or Pension. Since Aid and Attendance and Housebound allowances increase the pension amount, people who are not eligible for a basic pension due to excessive income may be eligible for pension at these increased rates. A claimant may not receive Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time. | |
| Burial Allowance  [VA burial allowances](https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf) are flat rate monetary benefits that are paid for an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. VA may grant additional benefits including the plot or interment allowance and transportation allowance if a claim is received for these benefits. | |
| Headstones, Markers and Medallions  Most Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable are eligible to receive a [headstone, marker or medallion](https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/index.asp), at no cost to the applicant. Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense. | |
| Burial Flags  A [United States flag](https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/burial_flags.asp) is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. | |
| Presidential Memorial Certificates  A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of deceased Veterans who are eligible for burial in a national cemetery | |
| DFAS Arrears of Pay (retirees only)  Arrears of Pay is a one-time payment made to a beneficiary after death. The arrears of pay payment will include the pro-rated amount of the final month’s retirement pay, and any other money owed at the time of death from DFAS. This is because entitlement to retirement pay ends on the date of death. When the death is reported, **DFAS will reclaim the final month's pay** and audit the account. The amount of the payment actually owed will then be computed and given to the Beneficiary. | |
| DFAS Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) (retirees only)  Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP) and Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) provide eligible beneficiaries with a form of benefit called an "annuity." An annuity is a monthly payment for the lifetime of the beneficiary. The amount of the benefit is a percentage of the retirement benefit based on the service member’s election. Enrollment in an annuity plan is not automatic; election to participate in these programs is generally made at the time of retirement, although some situations allow a retiree to add coverage after retirement. In most cases, costs to participate (premiums) are deducted from the retiree's monthly pay and are based on the amount of coverage a retiree elects. The SBP election does not entitle the beneficiary named for SBP to Arrears of Pay (AOP). A separate AOP designation has to be made in order to designate the desired individual. | |