



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Benefits Administration

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## **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation**

### **What is Dependency and Indemnity Compensation?**

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a monthly benefit. It is paid to eligible survivors of:

- Service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty training, OR
- Veterans who died as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, OR
- Veterans who did not die as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, but were totally disabled by a service-connected disability:
  - For at least 10 years before death, OR
  - Since their release from active duty and for at least five years before death, OR
  - For at least one year before death, if they were a former prisoner of war and died after Sept. 30, 1999.

### **Who is eligible?**

#### Surviving Spouses

You may be eligible for DIC benefits if you are a surviving spouse who:

- Married a Service member who died on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty training, OR
- Married the deceased Veteran before Jan. 1, 1957, OR
- Married a Veteran who died from a service-connected injury or disease, as long as the marriage began within 15 years of discharge, OR
- Married the deceased Veteran for at least one year, OR
- Had a child with the Veteran and cohabitated with the Veteran until their death.
  - Note: If you have a child with the Veteran but were separated, you must not be at fault for the separation and not be remarried in order to be eligible.

- Note: If you remarried on or after Dec. 16, 2003 and were at least 57 years old, you may still be eligible.

## Surviving Children

If you are a surviving child, you may be eligible for DIC if the Veteran parent:

- Died in the line of duty, OR
- Died as a result of a service-connected injury or disease.

You also must be unmarried and either:

- Under the age of 18, OR
- Between the ages of 18 and 23 and currently attending school.

Certain helpless adult children may also be eligible. You can call 800-827-1000 for eligibility requirements.

## Parents

If you are a surviving parent, you may be eligible for DIC if the Veteran child:

- Died in the line of duty, OR
- Died as a result of a service-connected injury or disease.

You can find more information about Parents' DIC at

[www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/types-dependency\\_and\\_indemnity\\_parents.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/types-dependency_and_indemnity_parents.asp).

## **How Much Does VA Pay?**

- View the benefits tables for surviving spouses and children at [www.benefits.va.gov/Compensation/current\\_rates\\_dic.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/Compensation/current_rates_dic.asp).
- View the benefits table for parents at [www.benefits.va.gov/Pension/current\\_rates\\_Parents\\_DIC\\_pen.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/Pension/current_rates_Parents_DIC_pen.asp).

## **How Can You Apply?**

Apply for DIC benefits by filling out:

- VA Form 21P-534EZ, “Application for DIC, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits.” Access the forms at [www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf).
- VA Form 21P-535, “Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s),” accessed at [www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-535-ARE.pdf](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-535-ARE.pdf).

Mail or fax your completed form to the Pension Management Center that covers your area. Find more information at [www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/resources-contact.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/resources-contact.asp). If you do not know which PMC has jurisdiction over your claim, submit your application to your closest VA regional benefit office. See the directory of VA regional benefit offices at [www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp).