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▶▶▶ December 2012 ◀◀◀

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SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS BENEFITS -- DEATH AFTER ACTIVE SERVICE

One of the more difficult tasks a survivor faces after the death of the veteran is completing the numerous claims forms for VA survivors' benefits. The anxiety and fear of the unknown - who to call, what to do, or where to go for help - can be an unpleasant experience. To help ease the burden and to ensure you will have the necessary details for filing a claim, here are some basic quick tips.

Documents Needed

- a. the veteran's [discharge certificate or DD 214](#)
- b. the veteran's VA claim number or Social Security number
- c. the veteran's death certificate
- d. Government life insurance policy
- e. a copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees (if any)
- f. a copy of each child's birth certificate (or adoption order)
- g. veteran's birth certificate to determine parents' benefits

Where to Get Help

- a. [This web site](#)
- b. [Secure electronic messaging](#)
- c. [Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents](#) (An informative pamphlet)
- d. VA service representatives can answer questions about benefits eligibility and application procedures. Contact the nearest VA benefits office at 1-800-827-1000 from any location in the United States and Puerto Rico. VA facilities also are listed in the federal government section of telephone directories under "Veterans Affairs".