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WHAT IS DIC AND WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Dependency And Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension (DIC) is a monthly check paid to eligible survivors of certain deceased veterans.

Who is Eligible?

To get DIC, you must be an eligible survivor of a veteran who died because of a service-related illness or injury. If the veteran's death was not service-related, you may still be eligible if either of the following conditions existed at the time of death: the veteran was getting VA Disability Compensation for a total disability for the last 10 years. (Note: This also includes veterans who would have received VA compensation but didn't because they were getting military retirement or disability pay.) the veteran was getting VA Disability Compensation for a total disability continuously since released from active duty and for at least 5 years.

You may be an eligible survivor if: you were married to the veteran for at least 1 year. (Note: If a child was born, there is no time requirement) AND your marriage was valid AND you lived with the veteran continuously until his/her death or, if you were separated, you weren't at fault AND you did not remarry. (Note: If you remarried but your spouse died or you were divorced, you are eligible to re-apply after October 1, 1998.)

OR you are an unmarried child of a deceased veteran AND you are under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school. Note: Certain helpless adult children and some parents of deceased veterans are entitled to DIC. Call VA toll free for the eligibility requirements for these survivors.

How Much Does VA Pay?

VA pays a basic monthly rate of \$861 to eligible surviving spouses. In some cases, VA can pay more. Call the toll-free number below for information about rates paid to eligible children.

How Can I Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-534, Application for Dependency And Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension And Accrued Benefits By A Surviving Spouse or Child, and mailing it to the VA regional office that serves your area. Call the toll-free number below for information about other supporting materials that VA may need to process your claim.

Related Benefits:

Health Insurance (CHAMPVA) Home Loan Guaranty Federal Employment
Preference Survivors' & Dependents'
Educational Assistance
For More Information Call Toll-Free
1-800-827-1000

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION / CHANGES

This article is to clarify the changes in entitlement for Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC). These changes were included in the Veterans Benefits Act of 1998. The surviving spouse may be entitled to DIC if the marriage terminated by death, divorce, or annulment. This change is in respect to DIC only, not Widow's Pension. Therefore, the entitlement to DIC is established in any case in which the remarriage of the surviving spouse ceases living with another person holding himself or herself in public as husband and wife (Common Law). The previous bar to the granting of DIC will not apply.

It has been determined benefits may be paid on the basis a surviving spouse's remarriage has been dissolved by divorce or death. This requires evidence to verify the marital status of the surviving spouse as of the date of the veteran's death. The evidence must be submitted to resolve marital status. The evidence should include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1. Statement of all of the claimants marriages and indication of where, when, and how each marriage was resolved.**
- 2. Statement of whether the claimants has ever filed an application or received benefits as spouse, surviving spouse of any other veteran. If so, the name, claim number, and VA regional office the application was filed. DIC entitlement for award purposes shall be the first month following the month, which the marriage is terminated or end of the relationship resulting in the inference of remarriage occurs. This provision is effective October 1, 1998. Resumption of benefits can only be made from October 1, 1998, even if the ending of the relationship occurred before this date.**