



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

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.

How Much Does VA Pay?

- View the benefits tables for surviving spouses and children at 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.

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.
- 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.

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. 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.