

FACT SHEET



DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC) DECISION READY CLAIMS

The DRC Program

The Decision Ready Claim (DRC) Program is the fastest way to get your VA claim processed. With the DRC Program, you can get a decision within 30 days after you submit your claim when you work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) or other accredited representative. Your VSO will help determine if DRC is right for you and, if so, help you gather and submit all relevant records and evidence, including federal and medical records. This advance preparation by your VSO allows your claim to be assigned immediately to VA claims processors when it is submitted, getting you a faster decision.



Filing a DIC as a Decision Ready Claim

If you're a surviving spouse of a Veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease or the Veteran was rated 100% disabled due to service-connected conditions (including entitlement to Individual Unemployability) for 10 years prior to their death, you may be eligible to file a DIC Decision Ready Claim. Work with your VSO to determine if DRC is right for you.

Spouse DIC Eligibility

To qualify for DIC as a surviving spouse, you must have:

- Married the Veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
- Married the Veteran within 15 years of them being discharged from military service or from when the injury or disease that caused the Veteran's death began, OR
- Been married to the Veteran for at least one year, OR
- Had children with the Veteran, AND
- Lived with the Veteran until their death, or, if separated, were not at fault for the separation, AND
- Are not currently remarried.*

* You may be eligible to continue receiving DIC benefits if you remarried on or after December 16, 2003, and were at least 57 years of age.

To learn more about eligibility requirements for DIC, go to www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/types-dependency_and_indemnity.asp.

What information do I need to submit a DIC Decision Ready Claim?

When you meet with your VSO, bring copies of:

- The Veteran's death certificate, and
- The Veteran's relevant medical and Service Treatment Records.

Your VSO can also help you gather any medical information you are missing to make sure your claim is complete.

For More Information

Visit www.benefits.va.gov/drc to learn more about the DRC Program. To find an accredited VSO near you, go to www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vso-search.