

Survivor Benefits and Services for Veterans and Their Families

VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Services

Surviving Spouses and Dependents Financial Benefits

Survivor qualifies if the Veteran was:

- Continuously rated disabled for ten years immediately before death, or
- Was a former prisoner of war (POW) who was continuously rated disabled for at least one year immediately preceding death, or
- Was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Payment Breakdown for Surviving Spouses:

- Surviving spouses receive a monthly allowance of **\$1,340.14**. Spouses may receive **additional payments** for dependent children or if they are in a nursing home, need regular help from another person, or are permanently housebound.
- Additional Payments:
 - **(\$284.57)** If Veteran was totally disabled for 8 years prior to death and spouse was married to Veteran for those 8 years.
 - **(\$155.53)** If spouse can't leave the house due to a disability.
 - **(\$286.00)** If spouse has 1 or more children under 18 you may qualify for Transitional benefit for the first 2 years after Veteran's death. Plus, the DIC apportionment rate **(\$332.00)** for each eligible child.
 - **(\$332.00)** If spouse has a disability and needs help with regular daily activities (like eating, bathing, or dressing).

FAQs

1. I want to learn more about surviving spouses' benefits, who can I contact?
 - a. Call 800-827-1000 or visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/>.
2. My loved one had Veterans Group Life Insurance who do I call?
 - a. Call 800-419-1473.
3. Am I eligible for the Veterans Home Loan Program?
 - a. To learn more about this program visit, <https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/>.
4. Where can I find more information on educational benefits and assistance?
 - a. To learn more about this program visit, <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.
5. My son or daughter died; they had no next of kin. Am I eligible for anything?
 - a. To learn more about this program visit, <https://www.va.gov/disability/parent-dic-rates/>.

Veterans' Health Administration (VHA)

Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)

- Certain dependents and survivors can receive reimbursement for most medical expenses (inpatient, outpatient, mental health, prescriptions, skilled nursing care and durable medical equipment). This would be your secondary payer if you have Medicare entitlement.
- **Eligibility:** *Cannot be eligible for TRICARE
 - Surviving spouses or children of Veteran who was VA rated permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disability.
 - Surviving spouses or children of Veteran who died from VA rated service-connected disability, or at time of death rated permanently and totally disabled.
- Many VA Medical Centers (VAMC) provide services under the CHAMPVA. Call 800-733-8387 to find your local VAMC that provides this service.

National Cemetery Administration

- The VA has 137 national cemeteries, each one varies by type (casketed interments, cremated only) To locate cemeteries open for new burials visit: <https://www.cem.va.gov/>.
- To submit a claim for headstone or marker: complete VA form [40-1330](#).

Recommended Documents to have on hand:

- ✓ Copy of Veteran's discharge document that specifies period(s) of active duty and mentions character of discharge.
- ✓ Copy of deceased's death certificate.
 - If a spouse or child is being buried, proof of relationship to Veteran may be required.
- ✓ Veterans license
- ✓ Veterans social security card

Important numbers and websites to know:

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: 1-844-698-2311
- National Cemetery Administration: 1-800-535-1117, option 1 <https://www.cem.va.gov/#800>
- Veterans Benefits Administration: 1-800-827-1000 <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/#800>
- Veterans' Health Administration: Call 1-800-827-8387 <https://www.va.gov/health/#800>
- Veterans Crisis Line: Call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1
- Board of Veterans Appeals: www.bva.va.gov
- Department of Defense: www.defense.gov
- Social Security Administration (SSA): 1-800-772-1213 or 1-866-777-7887 for expedited claims