



Retroactive Casket or Urn Reimbursement Requests

On January 10, 2013, Congress enacted the “Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012”, Public Law 112-260, which authorized the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish a casket or urn of such quality as the Secretary considers appropriate for a dignified burial in a national cemetery of a deceased eligible Veteran who died with no known next of kin and without sufficient financial resources to furnish a casket or urn (Unclaimed Veteran). This authority became effective one year after the date of enactment.

VA published a proposed rule July 2, 2014, in the *Federal Register* to obtain public comments on the casket and urn standards and reimbursement claim procedures. VA published the final rule April 13, 2015. The final rule addresses public comments and codified the casket and urn reimbursement program in section 38.628 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations. VA began processing requests for reimbursement May 13th, 2015.

Because the casket and urn authority took effect January 10, 2014, before the regulations were finalized, VA advised individuals or entities to hold their receipts for caskets or urns purchased for the burial of an Unclaimed Veteran. VA will retroactively reimburse for caskets or urns purchased for Veterans who died on or after January 10, 2014, and who were interred in a VA national cemetery after that date. The following information explains the reimbursement process by time frame of interment. For burials that occurred on or after May 13, 2015 see the [Unclaimed Veteran Remains Casket or Urn Reimbursement Program Fact Sheet](#). For information on other benefits available to assist with providing Unclaimed Veterans a dignified burial please see the [Unclaimed Veteran Remains Fact Sheet](#).

<u>For Veterans Who Died on or After January 10, 2014, and Interred in a VA National Cemetery before July 2, 2014</u>	
Who may apply?	Individuals or entities that paid for a casket or urn to bury an eligible Veteran, in a VA national cemetery, who died on or after January 10, 2014, with no next of kin and insufficient resources for burial.
Type of casket or urn required?	Prior to proposed rule: Caskets and urns are not required to meet the regulatory standard for construction material as stated in the proposed rule. All other standards published July 2, 2014, are necessary.
<u>For Veterans Who Died on or After January 10, 2014, and Interred in a VA National Cemetery on or after July 2, 2014 and before May 13, 2015</u>	
Who may apply?	Individuals or entities that paid for a casket or urn to bury an eligible Veteran, in a VA national cemetery, who died on or after January 10, 2014, with no next of kin and insufficient resources for burial.
Type of casket or urn required?	After proposed rule: Caskets and urns must meet the following regulatory standards published in the <i>Federal Register</i> July 2, 2014: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caskets must be of at least 20-gauge metal thickness, designed to contain human remains and include a gasketed seal and external fixed rails or swing arm handles. ▪ Urns must be made of a durable material, such as plastic, wood, metal, or ceramic, designed to hold cremated human remains, and include a secure closure to contain the cremated remains.
Reimbursement Rate and Application Instructions are the same for Both Periods	
Reimbursement Rate?	Actual cost up to the maximum 2015 rate of \$1,967 for a casket and \$172 for an urn.
What must I submit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed VA Form 40-10088, Request for Reimbursement of Casket/Urn ▪ Provide the invoice for the casket/urn used for the unclaimed Veteran’s burial ▪ Completed VA Form 10091, FSC Vendor File Request Form or provide Vendor ID in box 11 of Part II of VAF 40-10088
Where do I submit my claim?	<p>Completed VA forms may be faxed or mailed to the following office:</p> <p>National Cemetery Administration Office of Field Programs (41) ATTN: Retroactive Reimbursement Request 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 415-K Washington, DC 20420</p> <p style="text-align: right;">FAX (not toll-free) 202-273-6697</p>

