

**NOTICE TO SURVIVOR OF EVIDENCE NECESSARY TO SUBSTANTIATE A CLAIM FOR  
DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION, SURVIVORS PENSION, AND/OR  
ACCRUED BENEFITS**

(This notice is applicable to survivors claims for: Survivors Pension • Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) •  
DIC under 38 U.S.C. 1151 • Increased Survivor Benefits Based on Need for Special Monthly Pension • Accrued Benefits  
• Benefits Based on a Veteran's Seriously Disabled Child)

Use this notice and the attached application to submit a claim for DIC, Survivors Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits.  
This notice informs you of the evidence necessary to substantiate your claim.

**Want your claim processed faster?** The Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program is the **fastest** way to get your claim processed, and there is no risk to participate! To participate in the FDC Program if you are making a claim for DIC, Survivors Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits, simply submit your claim in accordance with the "FDC Criteria" shown below. If you are making a claim for veterans disability compensation or related compensation benefits, use VA Form 21-526EZ, *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits*. If you are claiming veterans Pension benefits, use VA Form 21P-527EZ, *Application for Veterans Pension*. VA forms are available at [www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms).

**FDC Criteria (Claim(s) for DIC, Survivors Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits)**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | Submit your claim on a <u>signed and completed</u> VA Form 21P-534EZ, Application for DIC, Survivors Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits (Attached).  |
| 2. | <p>Submit simultaneously with your claim:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A copy of the veteran's Death Certificate (unless he or she died on active duty); <b>AND</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: 20px;"> <p><b>If claiming Survivors Pension:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All necessary income and asset information; <b>AND</b></li> <li>● <b>If claiming Survivors Pension with special monthly pension</b>, a completed VA Form 21-2680, Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance, <b>or</b> (if a patient in a) nursing home, a completed VA Form 21-0779, Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance</li> </ul> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>If claiming DIC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All, if any, of the veteran's relevant, private medical treatment records and an identification of any of the veteran's treatment records available at a Federal facility, such as a VA medical center, that supports your claim that a service-connected disability caused the veteran's death or the veteran's death was caused by the VA.</li> <li>● Any and all Service Treatment and Personnel Records in the custody of the veteran's Guard or Reserve Unit(s).</li> <li>● <b>If claiming DIC as the parent of the veteran</b>, all necessary income information and, if claiming benefits as the foster parent of the veteran, a completed VA Form 21P-524, Statement of Person Claiming to Have Stood in Relation of Parent.</li> <li>● <b>If claiming DIC with special monthly DIC</b>, a completed VA Form 21-2680, Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance, or (if a patient in a nursing home) a completed VA Form 21-0779, Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance</li> </ul> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-left: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Requirements for Certain Claimants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>If claiming benefits as the surviving spouse of the veteran</b>, a copy of your marriage certificate showing your marriage to the veteran, or <b>if claiming benefits for a child or biological/adoptive parent of the veteran</b>, a copy of the birth certificate or court record of adoption showing relation to the veteran.</li> <li>● <b>If claiming benefits for a child of the veteran between the ages of 18 and 23</b>, a completed VA Form 21-674, Request for Approval of School Attendance.</li> <li>● <b>If claiming benefits for a seriously disabled child of the veteran</b>, all, if any, relevant, private medical treatment records for the child's pertinent disabilities showing the child was incapable of self-support before age 18.</li> </ul> </div> |
| 3. | Report for any VA medical examinations VA determines are necessary to decide your claim.   |

**The Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program is the fastest way to get your claim processed, and there is no risk to participate!** Participation in the FDC Program is optional and will not affect the quality of care you receive or the benefits to which you are entitled. If you file a claim in the FDC Program and it is determined that other records exist and VA needs the records to decide your claim, then VA will simply remove the claim from the FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process) and process it in the Standard Claim Process. See below for more information. If you wish to file your claim in the FDC Program, see FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process). If you wish to file your claim under the process in which VA traditionally processes claims, see Standard Claim Process.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO**

You must submit all relevant evidence in your possession and provide VA information sufficient to enable it to obtain all relevant evidence not in your possession. If your claim involves a disability the veteran had before entering service and that was made worse by service, please provide any information or evidence in your possession regarding the health condition that existed before the veteran's entry into service.

FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process)	Standard Claim Process
<p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit your claim in accordance with the "FDC Criteria" (see page 1)</li> </ul>	<p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you know of evidence not in your possession and want VA to try to get it for you, give VA enough information about the evidence so that we can request it from the person or agency that has it</li> </ul> <p>If the holder of the evidence declines to give it to VA, asks for a fee to provide it, or otherwise cannot get the evidence, VA will notify you and provide you with an opportunity to submit the information or evidence. <b>It is your responsibility to make sure we receive all requested records that are not in the possession of a Federal department or agency.</b></p>

**HOW VA WILL HELP YOU OBTAIN EVIDENCE FOR YOUR CLAIM**

FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process)	Standard Claim Process
<p>VA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrieve relevant records from a Federal facility, such as a VA medical center, that you adequately identify and authorize VA to obtain</li> </ul>	<p>VA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrieve relevant records from a Federal facility that you adequately identify and authorize VA to obtain</li> <li>• Make every reasonable effort to obtain relevant records not held by a Federal facility that you adequately identify and authorize VA to obtain. These may include records from state or local governments and privately held evidence and information you tell us about, such as private doctor or hospital records or records from current or former employers</li> </ul>

**WHEN YOU SHOULD SEND WHAT WE NEED**

FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process)	Standard Claim Process
<p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send the information and evidence simultaneously with your claim</li> </ul> <p>If you submit additional information or evidence after you submit your "fully developed" claim, then VA will remove the claim from the FDC Program expedited process and process it in the Standard Claim process. If we decide your claim before one year from the date we receive the claim, you will still have the remainder of the one-year period to submit additional information or evidence necessary to support the claim.</p>	<p>We strongly encourage you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send any information or evidence as soon as you can</li> </ul> <p>You have up to one year from the date we receive the claim to submit the information and evidence necessary to support your claim. If we decide the claim before one year from the date we receive the claim, you will still have the remainder of the one year period to submit additional information or evidence necessary to support the claim.</p>

**WHERE TO SEND INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE**

Mail or take your application and any evidence in support of your claim to the closest VA regional office. VA regional office addresses are available on the Internet at [www.va.gov/directory](http://www.va.gov/directory).

**WHAT THE EVIDENCE MUST SHOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CLAIM**

<b>If you are claiming...</b>	<b>See the evidence table titled...</b>
Needs-based benefits based on the veteran's wartime service.	Survivors Pension
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The veteran's death was related to his or her service (DIC), <b>OR</b></li> <li>DIC because the veteran was receiving or entitled to receive benefits for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling.</li> </ul>	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
The veteran's death was a result of VA medical treatment, vocational rehabilitation, or compensated work therapy.	DIC under 38 U.S.C. 1151
DIC and it was previously denied by VA.	Reopened DIC
Special Monthly Pension.	Increased Survivor Benefits Based on <u>Special Monthly Pension</u>
You are entitled to the benefits that were due to the veteran at the time of the veteran's death.	Accrued Benefits
You are eligible to benefits because a child of the veteran is severely disabled.	Child Incapable of self-support

**EVIDENCE TABLES**

<b>Survivors Pension</b>
<p>To support your claim for <b>Survivors Pension</b>, the evidence must show:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The veteran met certain minimum <u>active service</u> requirements during a period of war. Generally, those requirements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90 days of consecutive service, at least one day of which was during a period of war; <b>OR</b></li> <li>90 days of combined service during at least one period of war;</li> </ul> <p>(<b>Note</b> : If the veteran's service began after September 7, 1980, additional length-of-service requirements may apply, typically requiring two years of continuous service or completion of active-duty obligations.)</p> <p><b>OR</b> any length of active service during a period of war when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the time of death, the veteran was receiving (or entitled to receive) VA disability compensation or retirement pay for a service-connected disability; <b>OR</b></li> <li>The veteran was discharged from active service due to a service-connected disability.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Your income and assets do not exceed certain requirements.</li> </ol> <p>Assets means the fair market value of all property that an individual owns, including all real and personal property (excluding the value of the primary residence including the residential lot area, not to exceed 2 acres) less the amount of mortgages or other encumbrances specific to the mortgaged or encumbered property). Personal property means the value of personal effects that are in excess of being suitable and consistent with a reasonable mode of life.</p>

<b>Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)</b>
<p>To support a claim for <b>Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) based on a service-connected disability</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The veteran died while on active service; <b>OR</b></li> <li>The veteran had a service-connected disability(ies) that was either the principal or contributory cause of the veteran's death; <b>OR</b></li> <li>The veteran died from non service-connected injury or disease <b>AND</b> was receiving, or entitled to receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For at least 10 years immediately before death; <b>OR</b></li> <li>For at least 5 years after the veteran's release from active duty preceding death; <b>OR</b></li> <li>For at least 1 year before death, if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>To support a claim for <b>DIC based on a disability that was not service-connected</b> or for which the veteran did not file a claim during his or her lifetime, the evidence must show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An injury or disease that was incurred or aggravated during active service, or an event in service that caused an injury or disease; <b>AND</b></li> <li>A physical or mental disability that was either the principle or contributory cause of death. This may be shown by medical evidence or by lay evidence of persistent and recurrent symptoms of disability that were visible or observable; <b>AND</b></li> <li>A relationship between the disability associated with the cause of death and an injury, disease, or event in service. This may be shown by medical records or medical opinion or, in certain cases, by lay evidence.</li> </ul>

## EVIDENCE TABLES (Continued)

### Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) (Continued)

To support your claim for **DIC based upon the service person's active duty for training**, the evidence must show:

- The service person was disabled during active duty for training due to a disease or injury incurred in the line of duty, and the disease or injury caused or contributed to the service person's death.

If VA granted service connection for a disease or injury during the service person's lifetime, evidence that the service-connected disease or injury caused or contributed to the service person's death may satisfy this requirement.

To support a claim for DIC based on a disability that was not service-connected or for which the service person did not file a claim during his or her lifetime, the evidence must show:

- The service person was disabled during active duty for training due to a disease or injury incurred in the line of duty; **AND**
- A physical or mental disability that was either the principle or contributory cause of death. This may be shown by medical evidence or by lay evidence of persistent and recurrent symptoms of disability that were visible or observable; **AND**
- A relationship between the principal or contributory cause of death and the disability due to injury or disease, incurred in the line of duty. This may be shown by medical records or medical opinions or, in certain cases, by lay evidence.

To support your claim for **DIC based upon the service person's inactive duty training**, the evidence must show:

- The service person died during inactive duty training due to an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or acute myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, or cerebrovascular accident during such training; **OR**
- The service person was disabled during inactive duty training due to an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or acute myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, or cerebrovascular accident that occurred during such training; and that injury, acute myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, or cerebrovascular accident caused or contributed to the service person's death

If VA granted service connection for an injury, acute myocardial infarction, or cerebrovascular accident during the service person's lifetime, evidence that the service-connected condition caused or contributed to the service person's death may satisfy this requirement.

To support a claim for DIC based on a disability that was not service-connected or for which the service person did not file a claim during his or her lifetime, the evidence must show:

- The service person was disabled during inactive duty training due to an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or acute myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, or cerebrovascular accident that occurred during such training; **AND**
- The injury, acute myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, or cerebrovascular accident caused or contributed to the service person's death

### DIC under 38 U.S.C. 1151:

In order to support your claim for **DIC under 38 U.S.C. 1151**, the evidence must show:

- The deceased veteran died as a result of undergoing VA hospitalization, medical or surgical treatment, examination, or training; **AND**
- The death was:
  - the direct result of VA fault such as carelessness, negligence, lack of proper skill, or error in judgment; **OR**
  - the direct result of an event that was not a reasonably expected result or complication of the VA care or treatment; **OR**
  - the direct result of participation in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment or compensated work therapy program

### Reopened DIC:

In order to reopen a claim previously denied by VA, we need new and material evidence. New and material evidence must raise a reasonable possibility of substantiating your claim. The evidence cannot simply be repetitive or cumulative of the evidence we had when we previously decided your claim. VA will make reasonable efforts to help you obtain currently existing evidence. However, we cannot provide a medical examination or obtain a medical opinion until your claim is successfully reopened.

- To qualify as new, the evidence must currently exist and be submitted to VA for the first time
- In order to be considered material, the additional existing evidence must pertain to the reason your claim was previously denied

## EVIDENCE TABLES (Continued)

### Increased Survivor Benefits Based on Special Monthly Pension

In order to support your claim for **increased survivor benefits based on the need for aid and attendance**, the evidence must show:

- you have corrected vision of 5/200 or less in both eyes; **OR**
- you have concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees; **OR**
- you are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity; **OR**
- you require the aid of another person to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing yourself, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment (38 Code of Federal Regulations 3.352(a)); **OR**
- you are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment (38 Code of Federal Regulations 3.352(a)); **OR**

In order to support your claim for **increased benefits based on being housebound**, the evidence must show:

- you are substantially confined to your immediate premises because of permanent disability

### Accrued Benefits:

To support a claim for **accrued benefits**, the evidence must show:

- Benefits were due the veteran based on existing ratings, decisions, or evidence in VA's possession at the time of death, but the benefits were not paid before the veteran's death; **AND**
- You are the surviving spouse, child, or dependent parent of the deceased veteran

VA pays accrued benefits in the following order of priority:

1. Spouse
2. Children of the veteran (in equal shares)
3. Dependent parents (in equal shares)

### Child Incapable of Self-Support:

To support a claim for **benefits based on a veteran's child being incapable of self-support**, the evidence must show that the child, before his or her 18th birthday, became permanently incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical disability.

## IMPORTANT

If you are certifying that you are married for the purpose of VA benefits, your marriage must be recognized by the place where you and/or your spouse resided at the time of marriage, or where you and/or your spouse resided when you filed your claim (or a later date when you became eligible for benefits) (38 U.S.C. § 103(c)). Additional guidance on when VA recognizes marriages is available at <http://www.va.gov/opa/marriage/>.

## HOW VA DETERMINES THE EFFECTIVE DATE

If we grant a claim for Survivors benefits, the beginning date of your entitlement will generally be the date we received your claim. However, if VA receives your claim within one year after the date of the veteran's death, entitlement will be from the first day of the month in which the veteran died.

The veteran's death certificate is evidence relevant to determining the effective date of any benefits we award.

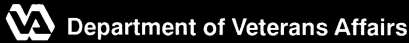
Special monthly pension may be available for a veteran's surviving spouse and/or parents who are unable to perform certain activities of daily living, are a patient in a nursing home, or are substantially confined to their immediate premises. Special monthly pension may be effective from the date medical evidence first shows entitlement.

## FEES FOR CLAIMS

Section 5904, Title 38, United States Code (codified in § 14.636, Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations) contains provisions regarding fees that may be charged, allowed, or paid for services provided by a VA-accredited attorney or agent in connection with a proceeding before the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to a claim for benefits under laws administered by the Department. Generally, a VA-accredited attorney or agent may charge you a fee for assisting in seeking further review of a claim for VA benefits only after VA has issued an initial decision on the claim and the attorney or agent has complied with the applicable power-of-attorney and the fee agreement requirements.

For more information on the FDC Program, visit our web site at <http://benefits.va.gov/transformation/fastclaims/>. For more information on VA benefits, visit our web site at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov), contact us at <https://iris.custhelp.va.gov>, or call us toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 711.

VA forms are available at [www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms).



**VA DATE STAMP**  
 (DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

**APPLICATION FOR DIC, SURVIVORS PENSION,  
 AND/OR ACCRUED BENEFITS**

IMPORTANT: Please read the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden on page 12 before completing the form.

**SECTION I: PERSONAL INFORMATION (MUST COMPLETE)**

1. VETERAN'S NAME (First, Middle Initial, Last)

2. VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER  - -	3. VETERAN'S DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY) Month      Day      Year  -      -	4. VETERAN'S GENDER  <input type="radio"/> MALE <input type="radio"/> FEMALE
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5. HAS THE VETERAN, SURVIVING SPOUSE, CHILD, OR PARENT EVER FILED A CLAIM WITH VA?  <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO (If "Yes," provide the file number in Item 6)	6. VA FILE NUMBER	7. DID THE VETERAN DIE WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY?  <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO
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8. VETERAN'S SERVICE NUMBER	9. WHAT IS THE VETERAN'S DATE OF DEATH? (MM/DD/YYYY) Month      Day      Year  -      -
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10. WHAT IS YOUR NAME? (First, middle, last name)

11. WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE VETERAN? (Check one)  <input type="radio"/> SURVIVING SPOUSE <input type="radio"/> PARENT <input type="radio"/> CHILD <input type="radio"/> CUSTODIAN FILING FOR CHILD	12. WHAT IS YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER?  - -
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13. WHAT IS YOUR DATE OF BIRTH? (MM/DD/YYYY) Month      Day      Year  -      -	14. ARE YOU A VETERAN?  <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO
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15A. WHAT IS YOUR ADDRESS?  
 Street address, rural route, or P.O. Box

Apt./Unit Number      City

State/Province      Country      ZIP Code/Postal Code      -

15B. YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) (include Area Code)

DAYTIME  - -	EVENING  - -	CELL PHONE  - -
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16A. YOUR PREFERRED E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)	16B. YOUR ALTERNATE E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable)
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17. WHAT ARE YOU CLAIMING? (Check all that apply)

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)    SURVIVORS PENSION    ACCRUED BENEFITS

**SECTION II: VETERAN'S SERVICE INFORMATION (COMPLETE ONLY IF THE VETERAN WAS NOT RECEIVING VA COMPENSATION OR PENSION BENEFITS AT THE TIME OF DEATH)**  
 (Skip to Section III if the veteran was receiving VA compensation or pension benefits at the time of his or her death)

18A. DID THE VETERAN SERVE UNDER ANOTHER NAME?  
 YES    NO (If "Yes," complete Item 18B)      (If "No," skip to Item 18C)

18B. PLEASE LIST OTHER NAME(S) THE VETERAN SERVED UNDER:



27. AT THE TIME OF YOUR MARRIAGE TO THE VETERAN, WERE YOU AWARE OF ANY REASON THE MARRIAGE MIGHT NOT BE LEGALLY VALID?  
 YES  NO (If "Yes," provide explanation):

**SECTION IV: CHILD OF THE VETERAN (COMPLETE ONLY IF CLAIMING BENEFITS FOR A CHILD(REN) OF THE VETERAN)**  
 (Skip to Section V if you are **NOT** claiming benefits for a child(ren) of the veteran) (If necessary, attach a separate sheet)

28A. NAME OF CHILD (First, middle initial, last name)	28B. DATE (month, day, year) and PLACE OF BIRTH (city/state or country)	28C. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	(Check all that apply)						
			28D. BIOLOGICAL	28E. ADOPTED	28F. STEPCCHILD	28G. 18-23 YEARS OLD (in school)	28H. SERIOUSLY DISABLED	28I. CHILD MARRIED	28J. CHILD PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If claiming benefits as the surviving spouse or custodian filing for a child, in items 29A through 29D tell us about the children listed in Item 28A who **do not** live with you.

29A. NAME OF CHILD (First, middle initial, last name)	29B. CHILD'S COMPLETE ADDRESS (Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., city, State, ZIP Code and country)	29C. NAME OF PERSON THE CHILD LIVES WITH (If applicable)	29D. MONTHLY AMOUNT YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHILD'S SUPPORT
			\$
			\$
			\$

**SECTION V: VETERAN'S PARENT (COMPLETE ONLY IF CLAIMING BENEFITS AS THE PARENT OF VETERAN)**  
 (Skip to Section VI if you are **NOT** claiming benefits as the parent of a veteran)

30A. WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS? (Check one)  
 MARRIED AND LIVE WITH OTHER PARENT OF VETERAN  MARRIED AND LIVE WITH SPOUSE WHO IS NOT THE OTHER PARENT OF THE VETERAN  SEPARATED, MARRIED BUT NOT LIVING WITH SPOUSE  DIVORCED  WIDOWED  
 NEVER MARRIED

30B. IF YOUR MARRIAGE HAS ENDED, PLEASE SPECIFY THE DATE (month, day, year) AND HOW MARRIAGE ENDED (death, divorce, etc.)

30C. IF YOU ARE SEPARATED, WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF THE SEPARATION? GIVE THE REASON, DATE(S) AND DURATION OF THE SEPARATION (IF THE SEPARATION WAS BY COURT ORDER, ATTACH A COPY OF THE ORDER)

31A. WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSE'S NAME? (First, middle initial, last name) (Skip to Item 32A if never married or no longer married)	31B. WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSE'S DATE OF BIRTH? (MM,DD,YYYY)	31C. WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER?  - -
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31D. IS YOUR SPOUSE ALSO A VETERAN?  
 YES  NO (If "Yes," complete Item 31E)

31E. WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSE'S VA FILE NUMBER? (If applicable)

32A. WAS THE VETERAN A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD OR UNDER YOUR PARENTAL CONTROL AT ALL TIMES BEFORE HE/SHE REACHED THE AGE OF MAJORITY (AGE 18 IN MOST STATES)?  
 YES  NO (If "Yes," skip to Item 34)

32B. DATE(S) OF PARENTAL CONTROL (If veteran did not live in your household continuously before age 18 provide the time period (dates) when he/she was under your parental control)  
 (MM DD YYYY) to (MM DD YYYY) (MM DD YYYY) to (MM DD YYYY)

32C. WHY WASN'T THE VETERAN A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD OR UNDER YOUR PARENTAL CONTROL AT ALL TIMES BEFORE HE/SHE REACHED THE AGE OF MAJORITY? (Explain fully)



33. NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH PERSON WHO ASSUMED PARENTAL CONTROL OVER THE VETERAN OUTSIDE THE DATE(S) SHOWN IN ITEM 32B					
A. NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)		B. ADDRESS			
		Street address, rural route, or P.O. Box	Apt. number		
		City	State	ZIP Code	Country
		Street address, rural route, or P.O. Box	Apt. number	City	State

34. IF YOU ARE NOT THE BIOLOGICAL PARENT OF THE VETERAN, PROVIDE THE NAMES OF THE BIOLOGICAL PARENTS, IF DECEASED, PROVIDE THE DATE(S) OF DEATH.	
A. NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)	B. DATE OF DEATH (MM/DD/YYYY)

**SECTION VI: DIC (COMPLETE ONLY IF CLAIMING DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC))**  
*(Skip to Section VII if you are NOT claiming DIC)*

35. WHAT BENEFIT ARE YOU CLAIMING?  
 DIC     DIC under 38 U.S.C. 1151 (RARE)

36. LIST ANY VA MEDICAL CENTERS WHERE THE VETERAN RECEIVED TREATMENT PERTAINING TO YOUR CLAIM AND PROVIDE TREATMENT DATES:

A. NAME AND LOCATION OF VA MEDICAL CENTER	B. DATE(S) OF TREATMENT

**SECTION VII: NURSING HOME OR INCREASED SURVIVORS ENTITLEMENT**

37. ARE YOU CLAIMING SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION OR SPECIAL MONTHLY DIC BECAUSE YOU NEED THE REGULAR ASSISTANCE OF ANOTHER PERSON, HAVE SEVERE VISUAL PROBLEMS, OR ARE GENERALLY CONFINED TO YOUR IMMEDIATE PREMISES?  
*(If "Yes," please complete and attach with this application, VA Form 21-2680, Exam for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance. Please make sure every box is complete and signed by a Physician, Physician Assistant (PA), Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNRP), or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS).)*

YES     NO

38A. ARE YOU NOW IN A NURSING HOME?  
*(If "Yes," answer Items 38B and 38C. Also, submit a statement from an official of the nursing home that tells us that you are a patient in the nursing home because of a physical or mental disability. The statement should include the monthly charge you are paying out-of-pocket for your care.)*

YES     NO

38B. WHAT IS THE NAME AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE FACILITY?

38C. DOES MEDICAID COVER ALL OR PART OF YOUR NURSING HOME COSTS?  
*(If "No," complete Item 38D)*

YES     NO

38D. HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR MEDICAID?  
 YES     NO

**SECTION VIII: INCOME AND ASSETS (COMPLETE ONLY IF CLAIMING SURVIVORS PENSION OR PARENTS DIC)**  
*(Skip to Section XI if you are NOT claiming survivors pension benefits or parents DIC)*

**IMPORTANT:**

- If you are a surviving spouse claimant, you must report income and assets for yourself and for any child of the veteran who lives with you or for whom you are responsible unless a court has decided you do not have custody of the child.
- If you are a surviving child claimant (which means the child is not in the custody of a surviving spouse), you must report income and assets for yourself, your custodian, and your custodian's spouse.
- If you are a surviving parent claimant, you must report income for yourself and your spouse.

39. DO YOU OR YOUR DEPENDENTS RECEIVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS?  
 YES     NO    *(If "YES," complete Item 40)    (If "NO," skip to Item 41)*

**40. GROSS MONTHLY INCOME** (Attach a separate sheet if necessary)

SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENT	GROSS MONTHLY AMOUNT
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

41. DO YOU OWN YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE? (Parents' DIC claimants skip to Item 43A)

YES  NO

42A. WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE LOT ON WHICH YOUR PRIMARY RESIDENCE SITS? (Square Feet)

Square Feet: \_\_\_\_\_

42B. COULD PART OF YOUR LOT BE SOLD *WITHOUT SELLING YOUR RESIDENCE*?

YES  NO (If "YES," complete and attach VA Form, 21P-0969, *Income and Asset Statement*)

**IMPORTANT:** VA matches income information reported with Federal tax information. Report ALL income you and your dependents receive on the appropriate sections of this form and VA Form 21P-0969, *Income and Asset Statement*, if appropriate.

43A. **OTHER THAN SOCIAL SECURITY**, DO YOU OR YOUR DEPENDENTS RECEIVE ANY INCOME?

YES  NO

43B. **OTHER THAN SOCIAL SECURITY**, DID YOU OR YOUR DEPENDENTS RECEIVE ANY INCOME LAST YEAR?

YES  NO

43C. DO YOU OR YOUR DEPENDENTS HAVE MORE THAN \$10,000 IN ASSETS? (NOTE: Assets are all the money and property you or your dependents own. Assets **do not** include your primary residence or personal effects such as appliances and vehicles you or your dependents need for transportation)

YES  NO

43D. IN THE THREE CALENDAR YEARS BEFORE THIS YEAR, DID YOU OR YOUR DEPENDENTS TRANSFER ANY ASSETS? (Examples of asset transfers include giving them away, selling them, purchasing an annuity, or using them to establish a trust)

YES  NO

43E. DID YOU ANSWER "YES," TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS IN ITEMS 43A THRU 43D?

YES  NO (If "Yes," you **must** also complete VA Form 21P-0969, *Income and Asset Statement*)

**SECTION IX: INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MEDICAL OR OTHER EXPENSES**

Family medical expenses and certain other expenses you actually paid may be deductible from your income. Show the amount of unreimbursed medical expenses, including the Medicare deduction, you paid over the last year (or expect to pay and continue indefinitely) for yourself or relatives who are members of your household. Also, show unreimbursed last illness and burial expenses and educational or vocational rehabilitation expenses you paid. Last illness and burial expenses are unreimbursed amounts you paid for the last illness and burial of a spouse or child. Educational or vocational rehabilitation expenses are amounts you paid for courses of education including tuition, fees, and materials. Do not include any expenses for which you were/will be reimbursed. Please make sure to complete all 6 criteria below (if applicable). If you need more space, complete and attach a separate VA Form 21P-8416, *Medical Expense Report*.

**IMPORTANT:** If you are claiming expenses for in-home care or assisted living, adult day care, or similar facility, you must complete the applicable worksheet on pages 13 and 14.

44. ARE YOU CLAIMING UNREIMBURSED MEDICAL EXPENSES?

YES  NO (If "No," skip to Section X)

45A. WHOSE MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER EXPENSES WERE PAID?	45B. PAID TO (Name of provider, insurance company, nursing home, etc.)	45C. PURPOSE (Medicare premiums, nursing home, etc.)	45D. DATE PAID (MM/DD/YYYY)	45E. HOURLY RATE/HOURS (In-home Provider only)	45F. AMOUNT YOU PAY



**SECTION XI: CLAIM CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE (MUST COMPLETE)**

I certify and authorize the release of information. I certify that the statements in this document are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize any person or entity, including but not limited to any organization, service provider, employer, or government agency, to give the Department of Veterans Affairs any information about me except protected health information, and I waive any privilege which makes the information confidential.

I certify I have received the notice attached to this application titled *Notice to Survivor of Evidence Necessary to Substantiate a Claim for Dependency Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits*.

I certify I have enclosed all information or evidence that will support my claim, to include an identification of relevant records available at a Federal facility, such as a VA medical center; **OR**, I have no information or evidence to give VA to support my claim; **OR**, I have checked the box in Item 49, indicating that I **do not** want my claim considered for rapid processing in the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program because I plan to submit further evidence in support of my claim.

49. The FDC Program is designed to rapidly process compensation or pension claims received with the evidence necessary to decide the claim. VA will *automatically* consider a claim submitted on this form for rapid processing under the FDC Program. Check the box below **ONLY if you DO NOT want your claim considered for rapid processing** under the FDC Program because you plan to submit further evidence in support of your claim.

**I DO NOT want my claim considered for rapid processing** under the FDC Program because I plan to submit further evidence in support of my claim.

50A. CLAIMANT'S SIGNATURE (REQUIRED)

50B. DATE SIGNED

**SECTION XII: WITNESSES TO SIGNATURE (COMPLETE ONLY IF CLAIMANT SIGNED ITEM 50A WITH AN "X")**

51A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (If claimant signed above using an "X")

51B. PRINTED NAME AND ADDRESS OF WITNESS

52A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (If claimant signed above using an "X")

52B. PRINTED NAME AND ADDRESS OF WITNESS

**PRIVACY ACT NOTICE:** The form will be used to determine allowance to compensation and/or pension benefits (38 U.S.C. 5101). The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). VA may disclose the information that you provide, including Social Security numbers, outside VA if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies. VA may make a "routine use" disclosure for: civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration. Your obligation to respond is required in order to obtain or retain benefits. Information that you furnish may be utilized in computer matching programs with other Federal or State agencies for the purpose of determining your eligibility to receive VA benefits, as well as to collect any amount owed to the United States by virtue of your participation in any benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Social Security information: You are required to provide the Social Security number requested under 38 U.S.C. 5101(c)(1). VA may disclose Social Security numbers as authorized under the Privacy Act, and, specifically may disclose them for purposes stated above.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** We need this information to determine your eligibility for pension. Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 25 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.

**WORKSHEET FOR AN ASSISTED LIVING, ADULT DAY CARE, OR A SIMILAR FACILITY**

**NOTE:** Only complete this worksheet if you are claiming expenses for an assisted living facility, adult day care or similar facility.

**IMPORTANT:** VA recognizes the following five activities as Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) for medical expense purposes:

- (1) Eating
- (2) Bathing/Showering
- (3) Dressing
- (4) Transferring (for example, from bed to chair)
- (5) Using the toilet

Custodial Care is regular -

- assistance with two or more ADLs, **or**
- supervision because a person with a mental disorder is unsafe if left alone due to the mental disorder.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Use this worksheet if you are claiming a disabled person's care in an assisted living facility, adult day care, or similar facility as unreimbursed medical expenses. Follow the steps below to determine whether VA may deduct all or some of your out-of-pocket payments to the facility.

**STEP 1.** Are the expenses you wish to claim due to the disabled person's treatment in a hospital, inpatient treatment center, nursing home, or VA approved medical foster home?  
 (If "NO," continue to Step 2)  
 YES  NO (If "YES," **all** payments to the facility qualify as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. You are finished completing this worksheet)

**STEP 2.** Do **all** of the following apply to the facility?  
 • The facility is licensed (if the State or Country requires it)  
 • The facility's staff (or the facility's contracted staff) provides the disabled person with health care or custodial care or both.  
 • If the facility is residential, it is staffed 24 hours per day with caregivers.  
 YES  NO (If "NO," payments to the facility **do not** qualify as medical expenses. You are finished completing this worksheet)

**STEP 3.** Are you (the claimant) the disabled person, a surviving spouse, or a Parents' DIC claimant?  
 YES  NO (If "NO," skip to Step 6)

**STEP 4.** Did you claim special monthly pension or special monthly DIC in Item 37?  
 YES  NO (If "NO," payments to this facility for meals and lodging **do not** qualify as medical expenses. **Only** claim amount you pay the facility for **health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider** in Items 45A thru 45F. Skip to Step 8)

**STEP 5.** If you answered "YES" in Step 2, you stated that the facility provides you with health care and/or custodial care. Is this the **primary reason** you live in the facility (or attend day care in the facility)?  
 (If "YES," all payments to this facility **may** qualify as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F **if** VA rates you as eligible for special monthly pension or special monthly DIC. Please report the amount you pay the facility for lodging and meals separate from the amount you pay the facility for **health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider** as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. Skip to Step 8)  
 (If "NO," payments to this facility for meals and lodging **do not** qualify as medical expenses. Please report separately in Items 45A thru 45F applicable amounts you pay the facility for: (1) **health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider**, and (2) **custodial care**. Skip to Step 8)  
 YES  NO

**STEP 6.** Does the disabled person require the health care services or custodial care that the facility provides to him or her because of the disabled person's mental or physical disability?  
 (If "YES," you must submit a statement from a physician or physician assistant that (1) the disabled person requires the health care services or custodial care that the facility provides to him or her because of mental or physical disability, and (2) describes the mental or physical disability)  
 YES  NO (If "NO," claim payments you pay this facility for **health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider** in Items 45A thru 45F. Skip to Step 8)

**STEP 7.** If you answered "YES" in Step 2, you stated that the facility provides the disabled person with health care and/or custodial care. Is this the **primary reason** the disabled person lives in the facility (or attends day care in the facility)?  
 (If "YES," claim all payments to this facility (to include meals and lodging) as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F)  
 YES  NO (If "NO," **only** claim payments you pay the facility for assistance with **health care and/or assistance with custodial care** as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. Payment to this facility for meals and lodging **do not** qualify)

**STEP 8. Facility Certification:** Please submit a current statement showing the fees the claimant pays to your facility and a breakdown of the care received.

I **CERTIFY** that the information stated within this WORKSHEET FOR AN ASSISTED LIVING, ADULT DAY CARE, OR SIMILAR FACILITY is accurate and reflects the current environment pertaining to \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name of person staying at your facility)  
 and his or her care at this facility \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name and address of facility)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name, Signature and Title of Person Certifying for the Facility) (Date Certified)

**WORKSHEET FOR IN-HOME ATTENDANT EXPENSES**

**NOTE:** Only complete this worksheet if you are claiming expenses for in-home care.

**IMPORTANT:** VA recognizes the following five activities as Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) for medical expense purposes:

- (1) Eating
- (2) Bathing/Showering
- (3) Dressing
- (4) Transferring (for example, from bed to chair)
- (5) Using the toilet

Custodial Care is regular -

- assistance with two or more ADLs, **or**
- supervision because a person with a mental disorder is unsafe if left alone due to the mental disorder

**IMPORTANT:** The following activities are examples of Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) for VA purposes. VA generally **does not** recognize assistance with these activities as medical expenses: (1) Shopping; (2) Food Preparation; (3) Housekeeping; (4) Laundering; (5) Handling medications; (6) Using the telephone; (7) Transportation (except for medical purposes such as transportation to a doctor's appointment).

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Use this worksheet if you are claiming payments to a disabled person's in-home attendant as an unreimbursed medical expense.

Follow the steps below to determine whether or not:

- the attendant must be a health care provider for VA purposes **and**
- VA may deduct payment for assistance with IADLs as well as assistance with ADLs and custodial care

**STEP 1.** Are you (the claimant) the disabled person, a surviving spouse, or a Parents' DIC claimant?

YES  NO (If "NO," skip to Step 4)

**STEP 2.** Did you claim special monthly pension in Item 37?

YES  NO (If "NO," payments to this in-home attendant for assistance with IADLs **do not** qualify as medical expenses. Please report separately in Items 45A thru 45F applicable amounts you pay an in-home attendant for: (1) health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider and (2) custodial care. Skip to Step 6)

**STEP 3.** Is the **primary responsibility** of the in-home attendant to provide you with health care or custodial care?

YES  NO (If "YES," payments to this in-home attendant **may** qualify as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F **if** VA rates you as eligible for special monthly pension. Please report separately in Items 45A thru 45F amounts you pay an in-home attendant for: (1) health-care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider, (2) assistance with IADLs, and (3) custodial care. Skip to Step 6)  
(If "NO," payments to this in-home attendant for assistance with IADLs **do not** qualify as medical expenses. Please report separately in Items 45A thru 45F applicable amounts you pay an in-home attendant for: (1) health care services or assistance with ADLs provided by a health care provider and (2) custodial care. Skip to Step 6)

**STEP 4.** Does the disabled person require the health care services or custodial care that the in-home attendant provides to him or her because of the disabled person's mental or physical disability?

YES  NO (If "YES," you must submit a statement from a physician or physician assistant that (1) the disabled person requires the health care services or custodial care that the in-home attendant provides to him or her because of mental or physical disability, and (2) describes the mental or physical disability)  
(If "NO," the attendant **must be a health care provider**. Only report payments to the in-home attendant for **health care services or assistance with ADLs** provided by the health care provider as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. Payments for assistance with IADLs do not qualify as medical expenses. Skip to Step 6)

**STEP 5.** Is the **primary responsibility** of the in-home attendant to provide the disabled person with health care or custodial care?

YES  NO (If "YES," payments to the in-home attendant qualify as medical expenses (even assistance with IADLs) and can be reported in Items 45A thru 45F)  
(If "NO," report payments to this in-home attendant for **health care and/or custodial care** as medical expenses in Items 45A thru 45F. Payments for assistance with IADLs **do not** qualify as medical expenses)

**STEP 6.** Check all activities below that the attendant assists the veteran or disabled person with:

- ADLs:**  EATING  BATHING/SHOWERING  DRESSING  TRANSFERRING  USING THE TOILET
- IADLs:**  SHOPPING  FOOD PREPARATION  HOUSEKEEPING  LAUNDERING  MANAGING FINANCES  HANDLING MEDICATIONS
- USING THE TELEPHONE  TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-MEDICAL PURPOSES

**STEP 7. In-Home Attendant Certification:** Please submit a current breakdown of the time the attendant spends assisting the veteran or disabled person with health care services, ADLs and IADLs.

I **CERTIFY** that the information stated within this WORKSHEET FOR IN-HOME ATTENDANT EXPENSES is accurate and

reflects the current environment pertaining to \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Person Requiring Care)

and his or her care from \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Attendant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Signature and Title of Certifying Official)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Certified)