



DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

What is Dependency Indemnity Compensation?

Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of

- Military Servicemembers who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- Veterans whose death resulted from a service-connected injury or disease, OR
- Veterans whose death resulted from a non-service-connected injury or disease, and who were totally disabled from their service-connected disabilities for
 - o at least 10 years immediately preceding their death, OR
 - o since the Veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR
 - o at least one year immediately preceding death if the Veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Who Is Eligible?

Surviving Spouse

You may be eligible for DIC if you are a surviving spouse who:

- was married to a military Servicemember who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- married the Veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
- married the Veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the Veteran's death began or was aggravated, OR
- was married to the Veteran for at least one year, OR
- had a child with the Veteran, AND

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



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- cohabited with the Veteran continuously until the Veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, AND
- is 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.

Surviving Child

You may be eligible for DIC if you are the surviving child of a military Servicemember who died in the line of duty or a Veteran whose death resulted from a service-connected injury or disease. Additionally, you must be:

- unmarried, AND
- under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23, and attending school.*

*Certain helpless adult children may be entitled to DIC. Please call the toll-free number 1-800-827-1000 for the eligibility requirements.

Parents

You may be eligible for DIC if you are the surviving parent of a military Servicemember who died in the line of duty or a Veteran whose death resulted from a service-connected injury or disease. Additional information regarding parents DIC can be found on the Internet at:

http://benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/types-dependency_and_indemnity_parents.asp

How Much Does VA Pay?

The basic monthly rate of DIC, effective December 1, 2012, is \$1,215 for an eligible surviving spouse. The rate is increased for each dependent child, and also if the surviving spouse is housebound or in need of aid and attendance.



VA also adds a transitional benefit of \$301 to the surviving spouse's monthly DIC if there are children under age 18. This additional amount is based on a family unit, not individual children. Benefit rate tables, including those for children alone and parents, can be found at http://benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp03.asp.

How Can You Apply?

You may apply for DIC benefits by filling out VA Form 21-534, [Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child](#), and mailing it to the VA regional office that has jurisdiction over your claim. If you do not know which regional office has jurisdiction over your claim, you may submit your request to the VA regional office closest to your current residence. A directory of VA regional offices is available at http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division_flsh.asp?dnum=3.

