
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**What is DIC?**

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a:

- Military service member who died while on active duty, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling
 - * for at least 10 years immediately before death, OR
 - * since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR
 - * for at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Who are eligible survivors for DIC?

The unremarried surviving *spouse* if he or she:

- validly married the veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
- was married to a service member who died on active duty, 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
- 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.

The surviving *child(ren)* if he or she is:

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

(Note: Certain helpless adult children are entitled to DIC. Call the toll-free number below for the eligibility requirements for those survivors.)

The surviving *parents* may be eligible for an income-based benefit. See our fact sheet, Parents' DIC, or call the toll-free number below for more information.

Can DIC be restored for a surviving spouse who remarried?

Yes. DIC can be restored if the remarriage ended in death, divorce or annulment.

Also, a surviving spouse who remarries *on or after* attaining age 57, and *on or after* December 16, 2003, can continue to receive DIC.

However, a surviving spouse who remarried *before* December 16, 2003, and *on or after* attaining age 57, must apply no later than December 15, 2004, to have DIC restored. VA must deny applications received after that date.

Continued on Next Page

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How much does VA pay?

The basic monthly rate of DIC is \$967 for eligible surviving spouses. In some cases, VA can pay more; for example, because of dependent children. Call the toll-free number below for information about rates paid to eligible children. [NOTE: When the surviving spouse is eligible for payments under the military's Survivor Benefit Program (SBP), only the amount of SBP greater than DIC is payable. If DIC is greater than SBP, only DIC is payable.]

What is the application process?

First-time applicants should complete VA Form 21-534 (*Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child*) and submit it the VA regional office serving the applicant's area. The process is simpler on requests for restored DIC. Call the toll-free number below for information about supporting materials that VA may need, special instructions on requests for restoration of DIC, location of VA regional offices, and information on other VA benefits and services.

Related benefits:

Health Insurance (CHAMPVA)
Home Loan Guaranty

Federal Employment Preference
Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance

**For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000
or Visit VA's Web Site at www.va.gov**