



## Non-Service-Connected Death Checklist

### A. Claim Requirements:

1. Disposition of veteran's VA check (if any).
  2. If veteran was a military retiree, notify service department.
  3. If veteran was SC and rated totally disabled (100% or IU) at time of death, review for possible DIC. (Generally, requires veteran to have been rated totally disabled for 10 continuous years immediately preceding death. If out of service less than 10 years at time of death, rated totally disabled for at least 5 continuous years, from discharge from service to date of death. If a former POW, rated totally disabled for one year immediately preceding death.)
  4. VA Form 21-534, *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension, or Accrued Benefits by a Spouse or Child*, for surviving spouse and/or children.
  5. VA Form 21-530, *Application for Burial Allowance*.
  6. There is no minimum length of service requirement for **DIC**. — For **death pension**, veteran must have had a minimum of 90 consecutive days of active service or was discharged because of SC disability. If veteran entered service after 1980, the service requirement is 24 continuous months or the full period for which called to active duty, whichever is less, unless discharged sooner because of hardship, reduction-in-force, or SC disability. In any event, at least one day of service must have been during a wartime period.
- Note** > if veteran died on active duty under circumstances precluding payment of DIC (i.e., willful misconduct), veteran must have served honorably at least two years, at least one day of which was during a wartime period.
7. Veteran's death certificate or other appropriate proof of death.
  8. Dependency documents, if not previously submitted (marriage certificate, birth certificate(s), death certificate(s), divorce decree(s), VA Form(s) 21-674, as applicable). If an adult child is claimed as disabled (helpless), submit appropriate medical evidence in support.
  9. Report projected family income—include income from all sources, including farm and/or business. Also list deductions/exclusions—veteran's final expenses, unreimbursed medical expenses, children's wages, etc.
  10. Report net worth.
  11. Medical evidence to show surviving spouse is housebound or needs regular aid & attendance, if applicable.
  12. Is surviving spouse also a veteran?

### B. Benefits:

1. Social Security death payment.
2. Possible VA accrued benefits (if there was an unresolved claim or if there were unnegotiated checks at the time of the veteran's death).
3. Possible eligibility for burial and/or interment allowance; headstone or grave marker; U.S. flag; Presidential Memorial Certificate.
4. Life insurance payments (VA, other Government, or commercial).
5. Possible additional pension or DIC for surviving spouse on account of being so helpless as to be in need of the regular aid and attendance of another person (includes nursing home patients) or being housebound.
6. Eligibility for CAL-VET Home Mortgage Insurance.
7. Eligibility for property tax exemption consideration on principle residence.....  
(if veteran entitled to the exemption prior to death).
8. If veteran was a military retiree, possible payments under SBP/RSFPP.
9. Eligibility for a military identification card if the veteran was a military retiree or was rated SC, 100% at time of NSC death.
10. Eligibility for Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance benefits under 38 U.S.C., Chapter 35, for surviving spouse and/or children (if veteran was rated SC, permanently totally disabled at time of NSC death).
11. Eligibility for CAL-VET College Tuition and Fee Waiver for children (Plan B) if -  
if veteran had a (rated) SC disability at time of death.
12. Eligibility for health care coverage under CHAMPVA unless there is also eligibility under TRICARE (if the veteran was a military retiree) (if veteran was rated SC, permanently totally disabled at time of NSC death).
13. Eligibility for 10-point preference for State of California employment (surviving spouse).

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