



DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

BURIAL AND PLOT INTERMENT ALLOWANCE

WHAT ARE VA BURIAL ALLOWANCES?

VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits that are generally paid at the maximum amount authorized by law for an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. A VA regulation change in 2014 simplified the program to pay eligible survivors quickly and efficiently. Eligible surviving spouses of record are paid automatically upon notification of a Veteran's death, without the need to submit a claim. VA may grant additional benefits, including the plot or interment allowance and transportation allowance, if it receives a claim for these benefits.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

If the burial benefit has not been automatically paid to the surviving spouse, VA will pay the first living person to file a claim of those listed below:

- The Veteran's surviving spouse, **OR**
- The survivor of a legal union* between the deceased Veteran and the survivor, **OR**
- The Veteran's children, regardless of age, **OR**
- The Veteran's parents or surviving parent, **OR**
- The executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased Veteran

***Legal union means a formal relationship between the decedent and the survivor existed on the date of the Veteran's death, which was recognized under the law of the State in which the couple formalized the relationship and evidenced by the State's issuance of documentation memorializing the relationship.**

The Veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- ☐ • The Veteran died as a result of a service-connected disability, **OR**
- ☐ • The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, **OR**
- ☐ • The Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided to receive his or her full military retirement or disability pay, **OR**
- ☐ • The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, **OR**
- ☐ • The Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to, or from, a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, **OR**
- ☐ • The Veteran had an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death and would have been entitled to benefits from a date prior to the date of death, **OR**

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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