

**General Instructions****For Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s) (Including Accrued Benefits and Death Compensation when Applicable)****VA Form 21-535**

**Note: Read very carefully, detach, and keep these instructions for your reference.**

**A. How can I contact VA if I have questions?**

If you have any questions about this form, how to fill it out, or about VA benefits, contact your nearest VA regional office. You can locate the address of the nearest regional office in your telephone book blue pages under "United States Government, Veterans" or call 1-800-827-1000 (Hearing Impaired TDD line 1-800-829-4833). You may also contact VA by Internet at <https://iris.va.gov>.

**B. What is the purpose of VA Form 21-535?**

Use VA Form 21-535 to apply for:

- VA benefits you may be entitled to receive as the surviving parent(s) of a deceased veteran
- Any money VA owes the veteran but did not pay prior to his/her death (accrued benefits).

If you apply for one of these benefits, the law requires that we also consider your entitlement for the other.

**C. What is the purpose of the attached SSA-24 form?**

You can apply for Social Security benefits by using the SSA-24 form attached to this VA form (see pages 7 and 8). You don't have to apply if you don't want to or have already done so. If you do want to apply, fill it out and leave it attached. We will send it to the Social Security Administration for you. They will then contact you.

**D. What is dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), and how does VA decide what I will or will not receive?**

DIC may be payable to parent(s) when:

- a veteran's death occurred in service, or
- a veteran dies of a service-connected disability,

**AND**

- your income is limited.

VA pays Parents' DIC based on the amount of the claimant's countable income and whether the claimant is the sole surviving parent of the veteran or one of two parents. This is based on law. If the claimant is married and lives with his/her spouse, the claimant's and the spouse's income are counted. VA must include as income payments received from all sources that Federal law specifies.

Benefit rates and income limits are frequently changed, so it is not possible to keep this information current in these instructions. You can find out what the current income limitations and rates of benefits are by contacting your nearest VA regional office.

**Note:** Unless a claim for DIC is filed within one year from the date of the veteran's death, that benefit is not payable from a date earlier than the date VA receives the claim.

**E. How do I apply for the aid and attendance allowance?**

VA may pay a higher rate of DIC to a surviving parent who is blind, a patient in a nursing home, or otherwise needs regular aid and attendance. If you wish to apply for this benefit, check "yes" for Item 29.

**F. How do I complete my application?**

Print all answers clearly. If an answer is "none" or "0," write that. Your answer to every question is important to help us complete your claim. If you do not know the answer, write "unknown." For additional space, use Item 44, "Remarks," or attach a separate sheet, indicating the item number to which the answers apply. Make sure you sign and date this application (Items 40a through 41b).

**Note:** If the claim is being made on behalf of an incompetent person, the application form should be completed and filed by the legal guardian. If no legal guardian has been appointed, it may be completed and filed by some person acting on behalf of the incompetent person.

**G. What do I do when I have completed my application?**

When you have completed this application, mail it or take it to a VA regional office. Be sure to attach any materials that support and explain your claim. Also, make a photocopy of your application and everything that you submit to VA before mailing it.

## **H. How can I assign someone to act as my representative?**

A representative can be an accredited member of an accredited organization or other service organization that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs recognizes, an agent recognized by VA, or a licensed lawyer. If you appeal the decision, agents and attorneys can charge you for services that you receive from them only after the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) gives you its final decision about your application. That means you can use an attorney during any stage of your application for benefits; however, the agent or attorney cannot charge you for services unless you are trying to resolve a dispute with VA after BVA has made a decision about your claim.

If you want to use a representative to help you with your application, contact the nearest VA regional office. Depending on the type of representative you want to designate, we will send you one of the following forms: VA Form 21-22, *Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative*,

or VA Form 22a, *Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative*. You may also download these forms at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>. If you have already designated a representative, no further action is required on your part.

## **I. What if I believe that VA has made an error in processing or deciding my benefits?**

You can ask for a personal hearing at any time during the processing of your claim. That means you can ask for the hearing while VA is processing your claim or after VA has made a decision. You should contact the nearest VA regional office and tell them that you want a personal hearing on your case. Someone in the local VA regional office will arrange a time and a place for your hearing. At this hearing, you may bring witnesses. VA will record whatever you and your witnesses say during the hearing and include it in the official record. VA will furnish the hearing room and officials, and prepare a transcript of the hearing. VA cannot pay your expenses or the expenses of anyone you want to bring with you to the hearing.

**Privacy Act Notice:** The VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations 1.526 for routine uses (i.e., 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) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22 Compensation, Pension, Education, and Rehabilitation Records - VA, and published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required to obtain or retain benefits. Giving us your SSN account information is mandatory. Applicants are required to provide their SSN under Title 38 USC 5101 (c) (1). The VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. 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.

**Respondent Burden:** We need this information to determine eligibility for death benefits and accrued benefits under 38 U.S.C. 1121, 1310, 1315, and 5121. Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 1 hour and 12 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.whitehouse.gov/library/omb/OMBINVC.html#VA](http://www.whitehouse.gov/library/omb/OMBINVC.html#VA). If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.



**SECTION III Tell us about the veteran's active duty service**

1. Enter complete information for all periods of service. If more space is needed use Item 44 "Remarks."

2. If the veteran never filed a claim with VA, attach the original DD214 or a certified copy for each period of service listed. We will return original documents to you.

**Note: Skip to Section IV if the veteran was receiving VA compensation or pension at the time of his/her death.**

18a. Entered Active Service (first period)  _____ mo day yr	18b. Place	18c. Service Number	
18d. Left This Active Service  _____ mo day yr	18e. Place	18f. Branch of Service	18g. Grade, Rank or Rating
18h. Entered Active Service (second period)  _____ mo day yr	18i. Place	18j. Service Number	
18k. Left This Active Service  _____ mo day yr	18l. Place	18m. Branch of Service	18n. Grade, Rank or Rating

**SECTION IV Tell us about the veteran's parents**

Provide a copy of the veteran's public record of birth or a copy of the court record of adoption if the veteran was adopted.

**Definitions:**

Parent means a biological mother or father, adoptive mother or father, and a foster mother or father. A foster parent is a person who stood in the relationship of a parent to a veteran for at least one year before the veteran's last entry into active service. The foster relationship must have begun prior to the veteran's 21st birthday. If you are claiming benefits as the foster parent of the veteran, you will also need to complete VA Form 21-524, *Statement of Person Claiming To Have Stood in Relation of Parent*. If you need a copy of this form, you may contact VA as shown on page 1, of the General Instructions or download the form from our website at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>. **Note:** Only one father and one mother can be recognized for benefit payment purposes.

The age of majority is determined by State law and is age 18 in most States. Contact your State government for more information.

Parental control is considered to have been given up if the parent has ceased to provide for the child and the normal parent/child relationship has been broken.

19. What is the name of the veteran's mother? If deceased, provide date of death.

_____	_____	_____
First	Middle	Last
_____ mo day yr		

20. What is the name of the veteran's father? If deceased, provide date of death.

_____	_____	_____
First	Middle	Last
_____ mo day yr		

21. What is the name of the veteran's foster mother? (If none, write "none.") If deceased, provide date of death.

_____	_____	_____
First	Middle	Last
_____ mo day yr		

22. What is the name of the veteran's foster father? (If none, write "none.") If deceased, provide date of death.

_____	_____	_____
First	Middle	Last
_____ mo day yr		

**SECTION IV (Continued)**

**Tell us about the veteran's parents**

23a. Was the veteran a member of your household or under your parental control at all times before he/she reached the age of majority?  
 Yes     No  
*(If "NO," answer Items 23b through 23d.)*

23b. Date of parental control.  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
mo day yr                      mo day yr  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
mo day yr                      mo day yr

23c. 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)*

23d. Name and address of each person who assumed parental control over the veteran outside the date(s) shown in item 23b.

\_\_\_\_\_ First                      Middle                      Last  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ First                      Middle                      Last

**SECTION V Tell us about your marital history**

24. 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 veteran
- Separated, married but not living with spouse

What was the date of separation? \_\_\_\_\_  
mo day yr

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.

Divorced                      What was the date of divorce? \_\_\_\_\_  
mo day yr

Widowed                      What was the date of your spouse's death? \_\_\_\_\_  
mo day yr

Never married    If never married, skip to Section VI.

25. What is your spouse's name?

\_\_\_\_\_ First                      Middle                      Last

26. What is your spouse's date of birth?

\_\_\_\_\_ mo day yr

27. What is your spouse's Social Security number?

\_\_\_\_\_

28a. Is your spouse also a veteran?

- Yes     No

*(If "Yes," answer Item 28b also)*

28b. What is your spouse's VA file number (if any)?

\_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>SECTION VI Tell us if you are in a nursing home or require aid and attendance</b></p> <p>If you answered "yes" to item 29 and are not in a nursing home, submit a statement from your doctor showing the extent of your disabilities. If you are in a nursing home, attach a statement signed by an official of the nursing home showing the date you were admitted to the nursing home, the level of care you receive, and the amount you pay-out-of-pocket for your care.</p>	<p>29. Are you claiming the aid and attendance allowance because you need the regular assistance of another person or have severe visual problems?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(If "No," skip to Section VII.)</i></p>	<p>30a. Are you now in a nursing home?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(If "YES," answer Items 30b also.)</i></p>
<p>30b. What is the name and complete mailing address of the facility?</p>		

<p><b>SECTION VII Tell us about the income of you and your spouse</b></p> <p>Payments from any source will be counted, unless the law indicates that they don't need to be counted. Report <b>all</b> income in the tables below, and VA will determine any amount that does not count.</p>	<p>Report the total amounts before you take out deductions for taxes, insurance, etc. Do not report the same income in both tables. If you expect to receive a payment, but you don't know how much it will be, write "Unknown" in the space. If you do not receive any payments from one of the sources that we list, write "0" or "None" in the space. If you are receiving monthly benefits, give us a copy of your most recent award letter. This will help us determine the amount of benefits you should be paid.</p>	
<p>31. Have you claimed or are you receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		<p>32. Have you filed a claim for compensation from the Office of Worker's Compensation Programs based on the death of the veteran?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>33. Has a court awarded damages based on the death of the veteran or is a claim or legal action for damages pending?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		

**Monthly Income-Tell us the income you and your spouse receive every month**

**Note:** If you are filing this application as the guardian or custodian of the veteran's parent, do not report your own income.

Sources of recurring monthly income	Parent	Spouse (if living together)
34a. Social Security	\$	\$
34b. U.S. Civil Service		
34c. U.S. Railroad Retirement		
34d. Military Retirement		
34e. Black Lung Benefits		
34f. Other income received monthly <i>(Please write source below)</i>		
34g. Other income received monthly <i>(Please write source below)</i>		

**Annual Income by Calendar Year - Tell us about annual income for you and your spouse**

Report income received from January 1 to the date of the veteran's death. If the claim is filed more than one year after the veteran died, report the income you received from January 1 to the date you sign this application.

Sources of annual income	Parent	Spouse (if living together)
35a. Gross wages and salary	\$	\$
35b. Total dividends and interest		
35c. Life insurance		
35d. Other income expected (Please write source below)		

**SECTION VIII**  
**Tell us about medical, last illness and burial or other reimbursed expenses**

Family medical expenses and certain other expenses actually paid by you may be deductible from your income. Show the amount of any continuing family medical expenses such as the monthly Medicare deduction or nursing home fees you pay. Also, show unreimbursed last illness and burial expenses you paid. Last illness and burial expenses are unreimbursed amounts paid by you for the last illness and burial of the veteran or your spouse at any time prior to the end of the year following the year of death. Show medical, legal or other expenses you paid because of a claim for compensation for injury or death for which civilian disability or death benefits have been awarded. When determining your countable income, we may be able to deduct these expenses from the disability benefits for the year in which the expenses are paid. **Do not** include any expenses for which you were reimbursed. If you receive reimbursement after you have filed this claim, promptly advise the VA office handling your claim. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet.

36a. Amount paid by you	36b. Date Paid	36c. Purpose (Medicare deduction, doctor's fees, burial expenses, etc.)	36d. Paid to (Name of Doctor, hospital, pharmacy, etc.)	36e. Relationship of person for whom expenses paid
\$	mo day yr			
\$	mo day yr			
\$	mo day yr			
\$	mo day yr			

**SECTION IX**  
**Give us direct deposit information**

If benefits are awarded we will need more information in order to process any payments to you. Please read the paragraph starting with, "All Federal payments..." and then either:

All Federal payments beginning January 2, 1999, must be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT), also called Direct Deposit. Please attach a voided personal check or deposit slip or provide the information requested below in Items 37, 38, and 39 to enroll in Direct Deposit. If you do not have a bank account, we will give you a waiver from Direct Deposit. Just check the box below in Item 37. The Treasury Department is working on making bank accounts available to you. Once these accounts are available, you will be able to decide whether you wish to sign-up for one of the accounts or continue to receive a paper check. You can also request a waiver if you have other circumstances that you feel would cause you a hardship to be enrolled in Direct Deposit. You can write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 125 S. Main Street, Suite B, Muskogee, OK 74401-7004, and give us a brief description of why you do not wish to participate in Direct Deposit.

37. Account number (Please check the appropriate box and provide that account number, if applicable)

Checking  I certify that I **do not** have an account with a financial institution or certified payment agent

Savings

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

38. Name of financial institution \_\_\_\_\_

39. Routing or transit number \_\_\_\_\_

1. Attach a voided check, or
2. Answer questions 37-39 to the right.

<p><b>SECTION X Give us your signature</b></p> <p>1. Read the box that starts, "I certify and authorize the release of information:"</p> <p>2. Sign the box that says, "Your signature."</p> <p>3. If you sign with an "X," then you must have two people you know witness you as you sign. They must then sign the form and print their names and addresses also.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
	40a. Signature of mother, foster mother, guardian or custodian	40b. Today's date _____ mo day yr
	41a. Signature of father, foster father, guardian or custodian	41b. Today's date _____ mo day yr
	42a. Signature of witness (If claimant signed above using an "X")	42b. Printed name and address of witness
	43a. Signature of witness (If claimant signed above using an "X")	43b. Printed name and address of witness

<p><b>SECTION XI</b></p> <p><b>Remarks - Use this space for any additional statements that you would like to make concerning your application.</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <p><b>Penalty: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false, or for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment which you are not entitled to.</b></p>	<p>44. Remarks <i>(If you need more space to answer a question or have a comment about a specific item number on this form, please identify your answer or statement by the Section and item number)</i></p>
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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
**APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS BENEFITS**  
(PAYABLE UNDER TITLE II OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)

(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)  
VA DATE STAMP

IMPORTANT-- Read instructions before completing form. Detach and retain ONLY the instruction sheet

1. FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME OF VETERAN <i>(Type or print)</i>		2. DATE OF DEATH
NOTE: If the veteran's Social Security No. is unknown, complete Items 4, 5, 6 and 7 about veteran.		
3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. OF VETERAN	4. DATE OF BIRTH	5. PLACE OF BIRTH
6. NAME OF FATHER	7. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	8. DID THE VETERAN WORK IN THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY AT ANY TIME AFTER 1936? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

NOTE: The following information should be furnished for each period of the veteran's active service (regular or reserves) after September 7, 1939, in the military service of the United States or service as a commissioned officer in the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or during WWII, Philippine or Filipino or Allied country military service. If additional space is needed, attach a separate sheet.

9A. DATE ENTERED ACTIVE SERVICE	9B. SERVICE NO.	9C. DATE SEPARATED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE	9D. GRADE, RANK, OR RATING, ORGANIZATION AND BRANCH OF SERVICE

10. RELATIONSHIP OF APPLICANT TO VETERAN <input type="checkbox"/> SURVIVING SPOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD <input type="checkbox"/> PARENT	11. DATE OF BIRTH OF APPLICANT	12. VA FILE NO.
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CHILDREN: Show names of surviving children (including natural children, adopted children and stepchildren) or dependent grandchildren (including stepgrandchildren) who at any time since the veteran died, were unmarried and (a) under age 18; (b) age 18 to 19 and attending secondary school; (c) disabled or handicapped (18 or over and disability began before age 22).

13A.	13B.
13C.	13D.

I know that anyone who makes or causes to be made a false statement or representation of a material fact in an application or for use in determining a right to payment under the Social Security Act commits a crime punishable under Federal law by fine, imprisonment, or both. I affirm that all information I have given in this document is true.

14. DATE <i>(Month, day, year)</i>	15. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>(First name, middle initial, last name)</i> <i>(Sign in ink)</i> SIGN HERE
16. MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT <i>(No. and street or rural route, city or P.O., State and ZIP Code)</i>	
17. TELEPHONE NO. <i>(Include Area Code)</i>	

WITNESSES REQUIRED ONLY IF SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT IS MADE BY "X" MARK ABOVE

18A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	18B. ADDRESS OF WITNESS <i>(No. and street, city, State and ZIP Code)</i>
19A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	19B. ADDRESS OF WITNESS <i>(No. and street, city, State and ZIP Code)</i>

ITEMS BELOW TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Use reverse for "Remarks"

20. PROOFS RECEIVED <input type="checkbox"/> DEATH <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIAGE <input type="checkbox"/> AGE _____ (NAME) <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>(Specify)</i> _____ (NAME) _____ (NAME)	21. PROOFS REQUESTED FROM CLAIMANT OR OTHER <i>(Specify)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> DEATH <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIAGE <input type="checkbox"/> AGE _____ (NAME) <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>(Specify)</i> _____ (NAME) _____ (NAME)
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22. DATE	23. NAME AND ADDRESS OF TRANSMITTING VA OFFICE
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**IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THE SSA-24.  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM SSA-24, APPLICATION FOR SURVIVORS BENEFITS  
(Payable Under Title II of the Social Security Act)**

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This application form, SSA-24, is an Application for Survivors Benefits Payable under Title II of the Social Security Act, as amended. Under authority of section 202(o) of the Social Security Act, the application requests information in order to determine eligibility to social security benefits.

You **do not** have to complete this application; there are no penalties under the law if you do not complete part or all of the SSA-24. However, it is usually to your advantage to provide the information because not providing it could prevent an accurate and timely decision on your claim or could result in the loss of some benefits or insurance coverage.

If you **do** wish to supply the information requested on the SSA-24, this information will be forwarded to the Social Security Administration and used by them to determine whether social security benefits may be payable to surviving dependent(s) of the veteran. Social Security will then contact you regarding any social security benefits payable based on information given on this form.

Please understand that Social Security may, in certain instances, disclose the information on this form to another Federal, State or local agency or individual without your written consent. This would be done in order to:

- enable a third party or an agency to assist Social Security in establishing an individual's right to benefits or coverage;
- comply with Federal laws which require or authorize the release of information from social security records; and
- facilitate statistical research and audit activities necessary to assure the integrity and improvement of the social security programs.

If you should have any question about entitlement to social security benefits or the information you have provided on this form, please contact your local social security office.

Complete each item of the attached application, Form SSA-24, (except Items 20 through 23). When signed and dated the form SHOULD BE LEFT ATTACHED to your completed

- VA FORM 21-534, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child (Including Death Compensation if Applicable) or
- VA FORM 21-535, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s) (Including Accrued Benefits and Death Compensation When Applicable).

**PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT:** This information collection meets the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. §3507, as amended by section 2 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. You are not required to answer these questions unless we display a valid Office of Management and Budget control number. We estimate that it will take you about 15 minutes to read the instructions, gather the necessary facts, and answer the questions.