

**SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES TO
DOD 7000.14-R, VOLUME 7B, CHAPTER 44
"SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP) - BENEFICIARIES"**

Substantive revisions are denoted by a ★ preceding the section, paragraph, table
or figure that includes the revision

| PARAGRAPH | EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION | EFFECTIVE DATE |
|--|--|----------------|
| 440103 | Interim change R10-02 inserted a sentence that refers to section 5201 for active duty death. | July 17, 2001 |
| 4401 440101.J 440102.C 440102.D | Interim change R10-03 makes technical and administrative changes to the Survivor Benefit Plan. | May 22, 2003 |

★TABLE OF CONTENTS

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP) - BENEFICIARIES

4401 Eligible Beneficiaries

| | |
|--------|--|
| 440101 | Spouse (Including the Spouse of a Common-Law Marriage) |
| 440102 | Children (Including Children of a Common-Law Marriage) |
| 440103 | Spouse and Children |
| 440104 | Former Spouse or Former Spouse and Child |
| 440105 | Natural Person With Insurable Interest |

CHAPTER 44

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP) - BENEFICIARIES4401 ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES

★ The eligible beneficiaries under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) are the spouse and/or dependent children, a former spouse, or a natural person with an insurable interest, providing they meet certain eligibility requirements. The election, if required, must be received within the time period allowed. An individual may not receive more than one annuity as the surviving spouse or former spouse of different members (see paragraph 480201, below). However, an individual may be the recipient of two or more annuities concurrently, so long as only one is a spouse or former spouse annuity. For example, the child of two members could receive an annuity from each parent, or an individual who was a spouse beneficiary of one member could also be a beneficiary of another member under the insurable interest category.

440101. Spouse (Including the Spouse of a Common-Law Marriage). The spouse is an eligible beneficiary if he or she is/was:

A. Married to a pre-September 21, 1972, retiree on or before September 21, 1973. The election must have been received before March 21, 1974.

B. Married to a post-September 21, 1972, retiree on date of retirement. Unless the member elects otherwise before retirement, the spouse and/or children are automatically designated as the beneficiaries even though the beneficiary data is not received before date of retirement.

C. Married to a pre-September 21, 1972, retiree after September 21, 1973; or a post-September 21, 1972, retiree after the date of retirement if, on September 21, 1973, or date of retirement, whichever is later, the member has or had no spouse.

D. Married to a pre-September 21, 1972, retiree, or a post September 21, 1972, retiree and on September 21, 1973, or date of retirement, whichever is later, the member had no eligible spouse or child and elected coverage for a natural person with insurable interest coverage or a former spouse. A member may change election coverage from a natural person with insurable interest to coverage for a spouse within one year of marriage. The spouse becomes an eligible beneficiary upon the first anniversary of the marriage or the date of birth of the child of that marriage, whichever is earlier, provided the member changes to spouse coverage. Until the spouse and/or child is eligible, the previously elected class of beneficiary remains eligible. A member may change election coverage from former spouse (or coverage for a natural person with insurable interest coverage who is a former spouse) to coverage for a spouse in accordance with paragraph 430702 at any time following remarriage. If the election change is requested after one year from the date of the member's marriage, the spouse becomes an eligible beneficiary on the date of the election receipt and the associated premium is effective on the first day of the month following election receipt.

E. Married to the member, regardless of the date of retirement, after the ineligibility of the spouse previously covered by the Plan provided spouse coverage was resumed. A spouse becomes eligible upon the first anniversary of remarriage or birth of child of that remarriage, whichever is earlier. The member has up to 1 year after remarriage to decide whether to resume spouse coverage.

F. Married to a pre-September 21, 1972, retiree at the time of retirement, divorced, and later remarried to the member, but not married to member during the period September 21, 1972 to March 21, 1974. A spouse becomes eligible upon first anniversary of the remarriage or upon birth of child of that remarriage, whichever is earlier. The election must be received within 1 year of the remarriage.

G. Married to a post-September 21, 1972, retiree at the time of retirement and member elected spouse coverage, divorced, and later remarried to the member. A spouse becomes eligible immediately upon remarriage provided spouse coverage was resumed. The member has up to 1 year after remarriage to decide whether to resume spouse coverage.

H. Married to a pre-September 21, 1972, retiree before March 21, 1974, and member elected spouse coverage, divorced, and later remarried to the member. A spouse becomes eligible immediately upon remarriage provided spouse coverage was resumed. The member has up to 1 year after remarriage to decide whether to resume spouse coverage.

I. Married to a pre-September 21, 1972, retiree after March 21, 1974, or a post-September 21, 1972, retiree after date of retirement, divorced, and later remarried to the member. A spouse becomes eligible upon first anniversary of remarriage or date of the birth of child of that remarriage. The election must be received within 1 year of the remarriage.

★ J. Married to a member who dies in Line-of-Duty while on active duty or to a retirement-eligible member whose death is not in the Line-of-Duty. See Chapter 52 of this volume. NOTE: Prior to passage of Public Law 107-107 dated December 28, 2001, which applies to deaths occurring on or after September 10, 2001, payment of SBP to survivors of members who died on active duty was limited to survivors of those members with 20 years of creditable service toward retirement.

K. Married to a member who died before September 21, 1972, while serving on active duty. The member must have served on active duty for not less than 20 years and have been entitled to retired or retainer pay or would have been entitled to pay except that member had not applied for or been granted that pay.

440102. Children (Including Children of a Common-Law Marriage). A child is an eligible beneficiary if he or she is:

A. A child of the member who met the eligibility requirements on the date of the initial election for pre-September 21, 1972, retiree; on date of retirement for the post September 21, 1972, retiree; or, within 1 year of the acquisition of the child after the election or

retirement the same as for spouse coverage in paragraph 440101, above. The election must be received by the same date as required for the spouse, excluding a child election in conjunction with a former spouse election.

B. A child of the member and the former spouse if the member elects former spouse and child coverage effective on March 1, 1986, or on the first day of the month after the election change is received by the Secretary concerned, whichever is later. A member who elected former spouse coverage before November 8, 1985, could change to former spouse and child coverage before March 1, 1987, or if former spouse coverage was elected during the period November 8, 1985 through February 28, 1986, no later than November 13, 1987. The change to former spouse and child could only be made if the former spouse coverage was provided under the spouse category.

★ C. A child of a member who died on active duty provided that the member died on active duty after the same requirements were met as in Chapter 52 of this volume, and that the member did not elect former spouse coverage or was not required by a court order or spousal agreement to provide former spouse coverage.

D. The child is an eligible beneficiary if:

1. Unmarried; and
2. Under age 18; or at least 18 but under 22 and pursuing a full-time course of study in a recognized educational institution; or incapable of self-support because of physical or mental disability which existed before the 18th birthday or was incurred before age 22 while pursuing a full-time course of study; and
3. A child of the member, including:
 - a. An adopted child.
 - b. A stepchild, foster child, or recognized natural child, if that stepchild, foster child, or recognized natural child lived with the retiree in a regular parent-child relationship.
 - c. A child under age 18 and serving on active duty in the Uniformed Services.
 - d. A child under age 22 and enrolled in an institution of higher learning under a military subsistence scholarship.

NOTE: To qualify as a dependent child, a foster child must have resided with the retiree at time of death, received over one-half of his or her support from the retiree, and not be cared for under a social agency contract. A relative of the member (such as a grandchild) may qualify as an eligible child beneficiary if a foster parent/foster child relationship exists. Adoption of a grandchild is not required for the member to designate that child as an eligible child beneficiary. A child whose 22nd birthday occurs before July 1 or after August 31 of a calendar year is considered to have become 22 years of age on the 1st day of July after that birthday.

E. Child eligibility terminates for school nonattendance. If the child resumes school attendance, eligibility is reinstated. Child eligibility terminates by marriage of the child, regardless of whether the child is an incapacitated child entering into a valid marriage with another incapacitated individual. The termination of a child's marriage by death or divorce does not serve as a basis for reinstating child coverage. An annulment of the child's marriage, however, which renders the marriage void or invalid, or by a judicial decree by a court of competent jurisdiction declaring the marriage void, would serve as a basis for reinstating child coverage.

F. In the case of a member who has served 20 years of active service and who dies on active duty, and the member's spouse is no longer living, the child remains an eligible beneficiary through age 22 if pursuing a full-time course of study in a recognized educational institution.

★ 440103. Spouse and Children. Eligibility requirements are as shown in paragraphs 440101 and 440102, above. The spouse is the primary beneficiary with coverage passing to the children if the spouse remarries before age 55 (age 60, if remarried before November 14, 1986), or dies. Exception: If the annuity is payable because member dies on active duty. See Title 10 United States Code (U.S.C.), section 1448(d) (reference (c))), or the member is eligible to provide Reserve Component SBP but dies before notification of eligibility or during the 90-day period after notification. See 10 U.S.C. 1448(f) (reference (c))), eligibility does not pass to the child when a spouse remarries. Also, see section 5201 of this manual for active duty death.

440104. Former Spouse or Former Spouse and Child. A former spouse is an eligible beneficiary if:

A. The former spouse is the member's former spouse (at time of retirement) when the member became eligible to participate in the Plan and is elected the beneficiary by the member or through a request to the Secretary of the Military Department concerned to deem an election.

B. The former spouse was not the member's former spouse (at the time of retirement) when the member becomes eligible to participate in the Plan, and the prior election is changed pursuant to paragraph 430503 of this volume to provide coverage for the former spouse. A former spouse acquired after member became eligible to participate in the Plan is an eligible beneficiary if married to the member for at least 1 year or the parent of issue of the marriage.

C. If coverage includes child, the former spouse is the primary beneficiary with coverage passing to the children if the former spouse remarries before age 55 (age 60, if remarried before November 14, 1986), or dies. The child is an eligible beneficiary provided the conditions in subparagraph 440102.D, above, are met and the child resulted from the member-former spouse marriage.

440105. Natural Person With Insurable Interest. The eligibility requirements are:

A. A person who has a reasonable and lawful expectation of pecuniary benefit from the continued life of the member. This category may include parents, stepparents, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, half-sisters, half-brothers, dependent or non-dependent child or stepchild, any other person more nearly related than cousin; or

B. Any individual having a reasonable and lawful basis, founded upon the relationship of parties to each other, either pecuniary or of blood or affinity, to expect some benefit or advantage from the continuance of the life of the retiree. NOTE: Proof of financial benefit from the continuance of the life of the member is required for persons other than those listed in subparagraph 440105.A, above. The legal staff of the supporting Military Service activity may coordinate on the eligibility requirements.

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN - BENEFICIARIES

4401 - ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES

| | |
|----------|--|
| 440101 | Public Law 105-85, section 642, November 18, 1997 |
| 440101.B | 56 Comp Gen 1022 |
| 440101.D | MS Comp Gen B-195349, January 10, 1980 Public Law 99-145, November 8, 1985 |
| 440101.E | DoDD 1332.27, paragraph 201d, January 4, 1974 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(6) |
| 440101.G | 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(6) |
| 440101.H | MS Comp Gen B-195349, January 10, 1980 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(6) |
| 440101.J | 53 Comp Gen 470, 847 55 Comp Gen 854 |
| 440101.K | Public Law 96-402, section 5, October 9, 1980 |
| 440102 | DoDD 1332.27, paragraph 102e, January 4, 1974 MS Comp Gen B-187179, November 30, 1976 MS Comp Gen B-221945, August 4, 1986 10 U.S.C. 1447(5) 53 Comp Gen 420, 461 44 Comp Gen 280 56 Comp Gen 1022 62 Comp Gen 193, 302 |
| 440102.C | Public Law 99-145, November 8, 1985 Public Law 99-661, section 642, November 14, 1986 |
| 440103 | 53 Comp Gen 847 Public Law 99-661, section 643, November 14, 1986 |
| 440104 | Public Law 97-252, September 8, 1982 Public Law 98-94, September 24, 1983 Public Law 98-525, October 19, 1984 10 U.S.C. 1448(b) |
| 440104.C | Public Law 99-661, section 643, November 14, 1986 |
| 440105 | MS Comp Gen B-179465, July 19, 1974 52 Comp Gen 973 |
| Note | DoDD 1332.27, paragraph 102e, January 4, 1974 |