



# VETERAN DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

Updated on 11/6/2024 – Display until 1/31/2027

## ACCRUED BENEFITS

Accrued benefits are benefits that are due, but not paid prior to a beneficiary's death. Examples include:

- A claim or appeal for a recurring benefit was pending at the time of death, but all evidence needed for a favorable decision was in VA's possession.
- A claim for a recurring benefit had been allowed, but the beneficiary died before award.

## DEPENDENCY INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

DIC is a tax-free monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or illness. A surviving spouse may be eligible if they meet the following requirements:

### One of these must be true:

- You lived with the veteran or service member without a break until their death, **OR**
- If you're separated, you weren't at fault for the separation

### And one of these must be true:

- You married the veteran or service member within 15 years of their discharge from the period of military service during which the qualifying illness or injury started or got worse, **OR**
- You were married to the veteran or service member for at least 1 year, **OR**
- You had a child with the veteran or service member

**Note:** If you remarried or are a surviving child, please contact a Veteran Service Officer to determine eligibility.

## SUBSTITUTION

Substitution allows a person eligible for accrued benefits to substitute a deceased beneficiary on a pending claim or appeal. The substitute claimant may submit evidence in support of the pending claim or appeal for potential accrued benefits.

## SURVIVORS PENSION

The Survivors Pension benefit, often referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free benefit payable to un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased veteran with wartime service. The deceased veteran must have met the following service requirements:

- Entered active duty on or before September 7, 1980, and served at least 90 days on active military service, with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period, **OR**
- Entered active duty after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period **OR**
- Was an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months **AND**
- Was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.

The Survivors Pension is a needs-based benefit. Qualifying factors include annual income, assets and eligible medical expenses. While an un-remarried spouse is eligible at any age, a child of a deceased wartime veteran must be:

- Under 18, **OR** 18-23 and attending a VA-approved school, **OR**
- Permanently incapable of self-support due to a disability before age 18

Get personalized voter information on early voting and other topics at [Michigan.gov/VOTE](https://Michigan.gov/VOTE)

**1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)**  
**Michigan.gov/MVAA**

[LinkedIn.com/company/MIVeteran](https://LinkedIn.com/company/MIVeteran)  
[Facebook.com/MIVeterans](https://Facebook.com/MIVeterans)  
[X.com/MIVeteran](https://X.com/MIVeteran)