



PART III - DRC AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

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Veterans Benefits Administration

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Lesson Objectives

After the training, the VSO will be able to:

- understand the concept of DIC
- identify DRC DIC exclusions
- identify the required evidence for a DRC DIC claim

Overview of DIC

DIC is a tax-free monthly monetary benefit paid to an eligible surviving spouse or child of a deceased Veteran who either:

- Died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training
- Died from service-connected illness or disabilities (38 U.S.C. 1310)

Overview of DIC

- Had been rated totally disabled for 10 or more years immediately preceding death (including Individual Unemployability [IU] or 100% SC rating) or
 - continuously for at least 5 years from Veteran's release from active duty immediately preceding death; or
 - at least 1 year before death, if the Veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999 (38 U.S.C. 1318)
- Death was the result of VA medical treatment, vocational rehabilitation, or compensated work therapy (38 U.S.C. 1151)

DIC Inclusions

The only three types of DIC claims that we will accept* through the DRC Initiative are:

- the DIC claim is based on an already S/C connection condition
- the DIC claim is based on an already 1151 established condition
- The DIC claim is based on the 10 year rule

*The DRC portal is expected to be updated to accept DIC claims sometime in September.

Evidence Requirements

Mandatory	Optional
VAF 21-22*	Dependency Forms*
Active ITF*	MTF Records
VA Form 21-534EZ (signed by claimant)	VAMC Records
Death Certificate	Vet Center Records
	Private Medical

Case Scenario #1

The VSO submits a signed and completed VA Form 21-534EZ for DIC and a death certificate. The death certificate shows the death occurred on 06/15/2017 and the cause of death as coronary heart disease. The Veteran has been service-connected for posttraumatic stress disorder @ 100% and bilateral hearing loss @ 0% since 05/10/2002 . The STRs are silent for coronary heart disease. The spouse, Martha, has been on the award since 05/10/2002 and was married to the Veteran until his death.

Is the claim DRC eligible and ready to submit?

Case Scenario #1

Yes, the claim is DRC eligible as this is a claim for DIC based on a non S/C death with at least 10 years of S/C at 100% and the claimant is an eligible dependent.

All necessary evidence is of record in the DRC submission.

Case Scenario #2

The VSO submits a signed and completed VA Form 21-534EZ for DIC and a death certificate. The death certificate shows the death occurred on 05/25/2017 and the cause of death as pneumonia. The Veteran has been service-connected for coronary artery disease @ 100% since 05/10/2016. The STRs are silent for any respiratory problems. However, the personnel records do show that the Veteran was a former POW during the Vietnam War. The spouse, May, has been on the award since 05/10/2016 and was married to the Veteran until his death.

Is the claim DRC eligible and ready to submit?

Case Scenario #2

No, while the claim is a DIC grant and all necessary evidence is of record, the claim is not DRC eligible as the Veteran is only eligible for DIC based on being a POW and being S/C for 100% for at least one year prior to death.

Questions

