



How To Apply

Family members of a deceased veteran whose death was connected to service may be entitled to a number of VA benefits, including Surviving Spouse Pension (Dependent Indemnity Claim) and Payment for Service Connected Burial costs.

Our Montgomery County Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) make the process as easy as possible for the veteran's family. VSOs are trained to prepare claims by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

Contact a VSO at 610-278-3285 to learn more about the program and to set up an appointment. The VSO will instruct you on which paperwork is needed to file with the VA.

Like all accredited Veteran Service Organizations, there is no charge for these services.

*Our staff of knowledgeable
Veteran Service Officers
can be contacted at 610-278-3285.*



Contact Us

Montgomery County Human Services Center
1430 DeKalb Street
Norristown, PA 19404-0311
610-278-3285
Fax: 610-278-5935
MontcoHHS@montcopa.org
www.montcopa.org/veteransaffairs



Montgomery County Board of Commissioners
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#rescue4recoveryxopiods

If you require assistance with Opioid addiction or dependence for yourself or another, please contact:

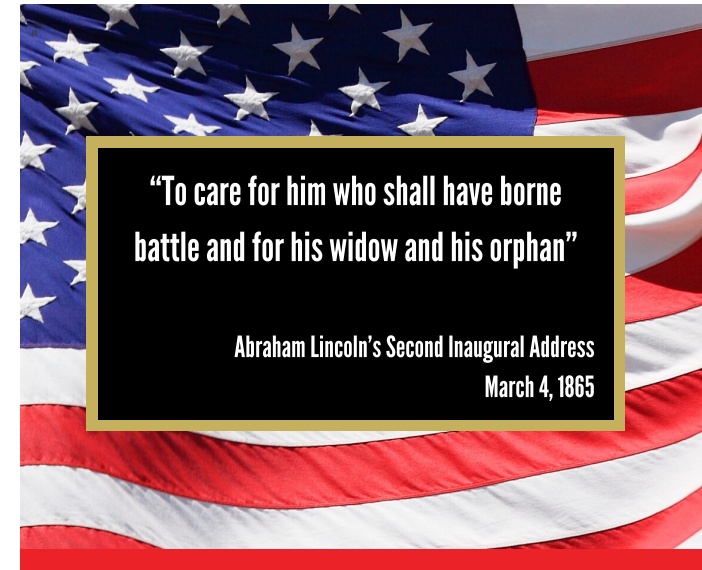


MONTGOMERY COUNTY MOBILE CRISIS
1-855-634-HOPE (4673)



Montgomery County
Department of
Health and Human Services

Office of Veteran Affairs



Service-Connection: What It Means After the Veteran Passes

What is a Dependent Indemnity Claim (DIC)?

DIC is a monthly payment that is available to eligible surviving spouses, children, and dependent parents when the VA determines that the veteran's death was service-connected.

What are the Qualifications?

To receive DIC, a family member must qualify as a surviving spouse, child, or dependent parent under VA rules. In general:

- A surviving spouse must have been legally married (for at least one year) to the veteran at the time of death and have lived with the veteran throughout the marriage; however, a separation that was not the fault of the surviving spouse will not disqualify the spouse.
- Same-sex spouses are eligible for VA survivor benefits.
- Surviving spouses who remarry before the age of 57 may have their DIC benefits discontinued.

When is the Claim Awarded?

A DIC claim will be awarded if the VA determines a service-connected disability was the principal or a contributory cause of the veteran's death.

- If the claim is filed within a year of the veteran's date of death, payments will be from the date of death.
- If the claim is filed after one year of the veteran's date of death, it will be paid to the date the claim was filed.

Be Advised

A determination of death attributed to a service connection **MUST** be met*. This can happen one of two ways:

1. Veteran files and is awarded service connection while alive.

Medical examiner determines veteran's service connection is a contributing factor in veteran's death. Family members should ensure this condition is listed on the death certificate as an immediate cause or underlying cause of the veteran's death.

2. Veteran did not file for service connection, but died of a presumptive condition, or a condition that should have been claimed while alive.

This condition must be listed on the death certificate as the immediate cause or underlying cause of death. A VSO will work with you to establish the service connection when applying you for DIC. There must be proof that the condition was caused during or by service, is a presumptive condition of a proven exposure and/or that the condition continued after service and contributed to veteran's death.

*Different rules apply for former Prisoners of War; contact a VSO for details.

Additional Benefits

Service Connected

If the veteran's death is service connected, the VA will pay up to \$2,000 in burial expenses and may include transportation costs. If the death is service connected, there is no time limit to file for reimbursement of burial and funeral costs. Transportation costs must be carefully documented.

NOT Service-Connected

Regardless of service-connection, the VA will pay a \$722 plot allowance for veterans not buried in a cemetery under U.S. government jurisdiction if the veteran:

- Was discharged from active duty because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; or
- Was receiving compensation or pension (or would have been but for receipt of military retired pay); or
- Died in a VA facility.

If the death is not service connected, the time limit for filing an application for reimbursement of burial expenses is two years.

