Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Check list
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military Servicemembers who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.

What is Dependency and Indemnity Compensation?
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a monthly benefit. It is paid to eligible survivors of:

- Service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty training, OR
- Veterans who died as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, OR
- Veterans who did not die as a result of a service-connected injury or disease, but were totally disabled by a service-connected disability:
  - For at least 10 years before death, OR
  - Since their release from active duty and for at least five years before death, OR
  - For at least one year before death, if they were a former prisoner of war and died after Sept. 30, 1999.

Eligibility (Surviving Spouse)
To qualify for DIC, a surviving spouse must meet the requirements below.

The surviving spouse was:

- Married to a Servicemember who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- Validly married the Veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
- Married the Veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the Veteran's death began or was aggravated, OR
- Was married to the Veteran for at least one year, OR
- Had a child with the Veteran, AND
- Cohabited with the Veteran continuously until the Veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, AND
- Is not currently remarried

Note: A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive DIC.

Eligibility (Surviving Child)

- Not included on the surviving spouse's DIC, AND
- Unmarried, AND
- Under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

Note: A child adopted out of the Veteran’s family may be eligible for DIC if all other eligibility criteria are met.
Eligibility (Parent)

Be the parent of a military Service member who died in the line of duty or a Veteran who died of a service-related injury or disease. The term "parent" includes:

- Biological,
- Adoptive, and
- Foster parents

A foster parent is a person who stood in the relationship of a parent to the Veteran for at least one year before the Veteran's last entry into active service.

The surviving parent(s) must have an income below a limit established by law. The current limit can be found on the Parents DIC rate table page.

Evidence Required

Listed below are the evidence requirements for this benefit:

- The Servicemember died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- The Veteran died from an injury or disease deemed to be related to military service, OR
- The Veteran died from a non service-related injury or disease, but was receiving, OR was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling
  o For at least 10 years immediately before death, OR
  o Since the Veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR
  o For at least one year before death if the Veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999
Checklist

**Not on Active Duty**
- Power of Attorney: VA21-22
- DD214
- Death Certificate (with cause of Death)

**Spouse?**
- Marriage Certificate

**Child?**
- Under 18: Birth Certificate or adoption papers
- Under 23: [VA Form 21-674](#): Request for Approval of School Attendance
- Over 23: **Not eligible!**

**Parent? (only one parent can be recognized for benefit payment purposes)**
- Birth Certificate or adoption papers
- All necessary income and asset information
- Use [VA Form 21P-535](#), “Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s)"

  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.

- **DO NOT USE VA FORM 21P-534EZ!!!**

**Foster Parent?**
- Birth Certificate or adoption papers
- VA Form 21P-524, Statement of Person Claiming to Have Stood in Relation of Parent

- Application for DIC, Survivors Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits [VA Form 21P-534EZ](#)
Checklist

*Active Duty Death (For all applicants)*

_____ A [VA Form 21P-534a](https://www.va.gov), "Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child" and mail to the Philadelphia Regional Office:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
REGIONAL OFFICE AND INSURANCE CENTER
P.O. BOX 8079
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19101
FAX NUMBER (215) 381-3084.

*** Submit additional work addressed under appropriate category on page 3, above.

**DO NOT USE VA 21-534EZ FOR ACTIVE DUTY DEATH**