

Dependency Claims Participant Guide



National Contact Center New Hire Challenge Training

OTED Training

July 2020

Dependency Claims Participant Guide

- Duration:** 1.75 hours
- TMS:** #4644570
- Audience:** This lesson is intended for new Public Contact Representatives (PCRs) within VBA's National Call Centers (NCCs) however, it is also suitable for any new or experienced VA employee desiring information on this subject.
- Purpose:** This lesson provides VA employees assisting the public with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge on this topic. It fulfills the training requirement outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for new hires in the National Training Curriculum (NTC).
- Objectives:** Upon completing this lesson, trainees will be able to understand and explain the following:
- The definition of dependency
 - Dependency relationships
 - Requirements that must be met to establish a dependency relationship
 - How to apply for dependency-related benefits

References:

KM ARTICLE

- [Dependency Issues – Procedural Changes and FAQs](#)
- [What Can Be Accepted By Phone/What Must Be Submitted In Writing](#)
- [Link to Dependency Topics KM](#)
- [Procedural Guidance & Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Internet

- [Adding Dependents to Your VA Benefits](#)
- [Important Information on Marriage](#)
- [Veteran's Dependent Parent Benefit](#) (fact sheet)
- [Where to Write for Vital Records](#)
- www.va.gov/disability/add-remove-dependent/
- www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/

Intranet

- [VBA Letter 20-15-16](#), Administration of Same-Sex Spousal Benefits

CPKM

- [M21-1 VII.i.1.A](#), General Information on Relationship and Dependency
- [M21-1 VII.ii.1.B](#), Awards and Adjustments Based Upon School Attendance
- [M21-1 X.ii.6.B](#), A Child's Permanent Incapacity for Self-Support
- [M21-1 II.iii.3.B](#), System Updates at Intake
- [M21-1 VII.iii.1.A](#), Apportionments Process

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- [M21-1 VII.i.1.D](#), Dependency Claims Processed by the Rules-Based Processing System (RBPS)

VA Forms

- [21-686c](#), Application Request to Add And/or Remove Dependents
- [21-674](#), Request for Approval of School Attendance
- [21-674b](#), School Attendance Report
- [21-8960-1](#), Certification of School Attendance or Termination
- [21P-0537](#), Marital Status Questionnaire
- [21-0538](#), Mandatory Status of Dependents
- [21P-509](#), Statement of Dependency of Parent(s)
- [21-4170](#), Statement of Marital Relationship (for adding spouse based on common-law marriage)
- [21P-4171](#), Supporting Statement Regarding Marriage (for common law marriage)
- [21-0788](#), Information Regarding Apportionment of Beneficiary's Award
- [21-441](#), Special Apportionment Decision
- [21-0820](#), Report of General Information

Introduction

What is Dependency?

The term "*dependency*" refers to whether an individual is financially dependent on a Veteran or beneficiary. Once we determine that a marital relationship exists between a Veteran and his or her spouse, we assume the spouse is financially dependent on the Veteran. Once we establish that an individual is the child of a Veteran, we assume the child is financially dependent on the Veteran. We do not require proof of financial dependency for a spouse or child. For a Veteran's parent, however, we do require proof of financial dependency before we can pay that Veteran additional service-connected (SC) compensation for a dependent parent.

A relationship refers to the individual's legal status with respect to the Veteran. For example:

- Have the spouse and the Veteran fulfilled the requirements for a legal marriage?
- Can the baby be recognized as the Veteran's child?

When does VA pay benefits for dependents?

Establishing an individual's relationship to a Veteran is critical in determining benefits because:

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- VA may pay additional disability compensation to a Veteran for his/her dependent(s) if the Veteran has a combined disability rating of at least 30 percent.
- VA may pay additional Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to a surviving spouse for any of his/her children that VA recognizes as a child to the Veteran on whose death the DIC award is based.
- The existence of dependents and the amount of their income is a factor in determining entitlement in both Veterans Pension and Survivor Pension cases.
- A claimant's entitlement to survivor benefits, such as DIC and Survivors Pension, is contingent on his/her relationship to the Veteran on whose death the benefit is based.

How does VA find out about dependents?

There are three ways we find out about dependents: up front, through verification, and surprises.

The first way is up front, on the application form itself. For compensation, because it's not a needs-based benefit, the Veteran or surviving spouse is not required to tell us about any dependents up front, but it is obviously to the claimant's benefit to do so in case we can pay them more money for those dependents.

Verifying Dependents Post-Award

For needs-based benefits like pension and parent's DIC, the claimant is required to tell us up front if dependents exist, as well as provide their income and net worth info. These requirements are spelled out on forms and letters.

VA has matching programs with Social Security and the Internal Revenue Service to verify income information.

For compensation or DIC awards, VA will verify dependency status with Veterans and surviving spouses every eight years via forms 21-0538 and 21P-0537. M21-1 VII.i.1.A forms are automatically sent out by the VA facility in Hines, Illinois. The beneficiary can complete and return the form to VA, call the National Contact Centers or visit the Public Contact Team at any Regional Office. More information on what can be documented over the telephone will be covered in a later lesson.

If changes are reported on the 21-0537 or 21-0538, adjustments will be made as needed. The award adjustments based on information a beneficiary provides do not require a notice of proposed adverse action - in other words, we can reduce or terminate the benefit without providing due process.

If a new dependent is being reported on the 21-0537 or 21-0538, we will need a 21-686c to establish the claim.

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If the beneficiary fails to respond with the completed verification form, reduction of compensation or termination of DIC may ensue. This means a dependent may be removed from the award. VA will accept the 21-0538/21-0537 or a 21-686c regardless of the time that has passed since the award was reduced. There is no requirement that 20-0995 accompany the questionnaire or the 21-686c.

Occasionally, we find out about a dependent not because the Veteran told us, but because it's mentioned in medical records or other evidence. If the Veteran is in receipt of 30 percent SC compensation or higher, the Veterans Service Representative (VSR) will send him or her a 21-686c. If pension or parent's DIC is involved, the VSR sends a 21-686c and an Eligibility Verification Report (EVR).

Who Can Be A Dependent?

Only a spouse, child, or parent can be dependents for VA benefit purposes. We will take a look at each of those separately.

Spouses

Marriage

M21-1 VII.i.1.A marriage is valid for VA purposes if the marriage was valid under the law of the locality where the parties to the marriage resided:

- at the time of marriage
- or when the claimant filed a valid claim (or became eligible for benefits, if eligibility arose after the date of claim)

If either party was previously married, the current marriage is invalid unless the prior marriage was:

- terminated by death, divorce, or annulment
- or determined to be void under state law

Proof of Marriage

VA accepts the entries a claimant makes on the appropriate VA form as proof of marriage as long as the claimant signed the form. VA doesn't require a marriage certificate or other evidence unless:

- the claimant does not reside within a state, the District of Columbia, or a United States territory
- there are conflicting or questionable entries on the form that can't be resolved by a review of the other evidence of record or a phone call with the claimant
- there is reasonable indication of fraud or misrepresentation

Same-Sex Marriage

VA now recognizes all same-sex marriages without regard to a Veteran's state of residence. The same procedures apply no matter if the claimant is asserting that he/she is in an opposite-sex marriage or a same-sex marriage.

For more information about VA's recognition of same-sex marriages, see [VBA Letter 20-15-16](#), Administration of Same-Sex Spousal Benefits.

The www.va.gov/opa/marriage/ page on va.gov is a good reference for the customer if they wish to read more about same-sex marriage guidelines.

Common Law Marriage

A common law marriage means there was no ceremony and no legal documents, but the two people involved have an agreement, they live together, and they have held themselves out as married in their community.

Things that can prove two people held themselves out as married include statements from people who knew them as a married couple, leases, joint bank statements or tax returns.

A [list of states](#) that recognize common law marriage is provided in the M-21.

There are provisions in the manual to "deem valid" a common law marriage even if it took place in a jurisdiction which didn't recognize it.

Once a common law marriage has been established, VA considers it a valid marriage in all respects. A common law marriage continues to be valid even if the parties later move to a jurisdiction not recognizing common law marriages. For VA purposes, a common law marriage cannot be terminated except through divorce, death, or annulment.

Other Types of Marriage: Tribal, Proxy

There are other types of marriages VA recognizes. PCRs may receive questions about if these types of marriages will allow VA to recognize the person as a spouse.

A tribal marriage means a marriage that was allegedly celebrated in accordance with tribal custom. VA will request the name of the tribe, affidavits from persons whom attended the ceremony and from the person who performed the ceremony. VA will request a Regional Counsel opinion regarding the validity of the marriage.

Proxy marriage is one contracted or celebrated by one or more agents acting on behalf of the actual parties to the marriage. The validity of a proxy marriage depends on the law of the particular jurisdiction. Copies of documents or certificates issued in connection with the marriage may be requested. VA will request a Regional Counsel opinion regarding the validity of the marriage under state law.

Surviving Spouse's Marriage to Veteran

Surviving spouses may file for benefits, even if the Veteran never filed a claim or if the spouse was never on the Veteran's award prior to his/her death. VA must ensure the person filing the claim meets specific requirements prior to granting benefits to them as a surviving spouse. The requirements to establish a surviving spouse relationship to the Veteran are:

- the claimant was married to the Veteran for at least one year immediately preceding the Veteran's death
- a child was born of the marriage or born to them before the marriage
- the marriage occurred before a certain "delimiting date" (which varies depending on the benefit)
- Continuous cohabitation

Continuous Cohabitation

The claimant must meet the continuous cohabitation requirement to qualify as the surviving spouse of a Veteran for VA purposes. Continuous cohabitation refers to (M21-1 VII.i.1.A the Veteran and surviving spouse lived together for the whole time from the date of the marriage to the date of the Veteran's death. There can be many reasons why the Veteran and spouse did not cohabit. The requirement can also be met if specific situations occurred. Some examples where a Veteran and claimant may live apart but still meet the requirement include:

- Living apart at the time of the Veteran's death but were not estranged. This could be because of medical, business or other reasons not involving marital discord.
- Living apart due to separation by mutual agreement without intent to desert.

Separations that occurred during the course of the marriage, regardless of fault, are irrelevant if the parties were no longer estranged at the time of the Veteran's death.

Deemed Valid Marriage

VA may be able to deem valid the claimant's marriage to the Veteran in some cases where it is necessary. A deemed valid marriage is one that is valid for VA purposes even though a legal marriage does not exist under state law.

Sometimes a surviving spouse is unable to prove that one or more of the deceased Veteran's prior marriages was properly terminated.

Legal impediments are referred to as objections or hinderances to the making of a

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contract. For VA purposes, a legal impediment may or may not allow VA to deem a marriage valid. Sometimes a legal impediment was unknown to the spouse.

Examples of legal impediments are:

- the Veteran was married to multiple people at the same time.
- the spouse and the Veteran were closely related, meaning the law in the state found their close familial relationship too close for marriage
- a procedural detail was missed such as failing to get a marriage license

Termination of Marriage

The two reasons for a marriage to terminate are divorce or death. VA will generally take the claimant's word for what they tell us regarding the termination of a marriage. That information may be on a dependency form or an application form. Proof is not always required. VA only requests documentary evidence like the death certificate or the divorce decree if there is conflicting information that we can't clarify via a review of the claims file or a phone call with the claimant, or if there is an indication of fraud.

There is no prescribed form for removing any dependent from an award. This can be done in writing, verbally, or via eBenefits. At a minimum, we need to know which dependent is affected, the type of event, and the month, day, and year of the event. **M21-1 VII.i.1.A**

Additional guidance will be provided in a later lesson on the procedures to take to report a divorce from or death of a dependent.

Divorce or Annulment

A marriage may end due to divorce or annulment. Annulment means to make legally invalid or void - in other words, for legal purposes, it's like the marriage never happened at all. We don't routinely request legal documentation of that divorce or annulment, we generally take the claimant's word for it.

If we do develop for divorce documentation, it's a two-step process. First, an "interlocutory decree" of divorce is issued. Then, after x number of days, the final divorce decree is issued. In those situations, we need the final divorce decree, not the interlocutory.

Sometimes, the person can't find the documentation or is having a hard time obtaining it. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) website provides links for each state that can be helpful for individuals searching for divorce decrees or documentation. "Where To Write For Vital Records" page which has links for all the states and other locations, domestic and foreign: www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm.

Death

A marriage will end if either of the spouses pass away. If the Veteran passes away, his/her benefits will stop the first of the month of death. If the spouse passes away, he/she will be removed from the Veteran's award.

VA will generally accept the report of death as a reason to remove the dependent from the award. If questionable or discrepant information is provided, VA may request proof of death to remove the spouse from the Veteran's award.

Children

Definition of a Child

VA defines a child as:

1. the biological offspring of a Veteran, legitimate or illegitimate
 - under the age of 18
 - between the age of 18 and 23 attending a VA accredited school
 - a helpless child, a child over the age of 18 but became permanently incapable of self-support before age 18
2. a child the Veteran legally adopted -
 - before the child's 18th birthday
 - between the age of 18 to 23-year-old school child attending a VA-accredited school
3. a stepchild who is a -
 - member of the Veteran's household and acquired the status of stepchild before age 18
 - a school child who became a stepchild of the Veteran between the ages of 18 and 23, and is a member of the Veteran's household or was at the time of the Veteran's death

NOTE: You'll notice a foster child is not included. Interestingly, a foster parent of a Veteran may be a dependent in certain circumstances – but not a foster child.

To Pay Dependency Benefits

To pay dependency benefits for a child, that child must be unmarried and:

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- under 18
- 18-23 and in school
- any age over 18, but became permanently incapable of self-support before age 18 (a "helpless child")

If the child is not living with the claimant, some development will be needed to determine if we can pay dependency benefits.

To add a child as a dependent, VA doesn't generally require the birth certificate or other documentation, but we do need the following:

- child's name
- SSN, if one has been assigned
- date of birth (month, day, year)
- birthplace (city and state)
- and child's relationship to the Veteran

Documentary evidence of a child's age and relationship to the Veteran is required if:

- the Veteran adopted the child
- the claimant does not reside in a state, DC, or a U. S. territory
- there is a question of validity, fraud, misrepresentation, etc.

If proof is needed, the Regional Office will send a development letter to the claimant and advise them of the necessary documents and evidence to provide to support their claim for dependent benefits.

School-Age Child

A school-age child is defined as a dependent who is at least 18 but under 23 and attending school. VA must obtain specific information on the topics listed below when determining if a school-age dependent can be on the Veteran's award.

- how many hours/days of instruction are required
- home schooling
- accreditation requirements for domestic & foreign schools
- and concurrent payment of education benefits and disability or survivor's benefits

School Child Dependency Claims – Covid-19 as of May 7, 2020

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Due to COVID-19, schools may suspend, cancel or teach classes virtually. In these situations, claims processors should not remove the child as a dependent from the award.

If a school-aged child stops attending school due to cancelled or postponed classes *solely* as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, claims processors will treat the period as a break between school sessions and will not remove the school child from the beneficiary's award.

If a school child now attends school virtually and because of restrictions on social interactions the pandemic triggered, his/her current courses of instruction do not meet the standards set forth in M21-1 VII.ii.1.B -- Claims processors will not remove the school child from the beneficiary's award. Rather, a child should remain on the award if the only reason for removal is solely attributable to changes in the academic/learning environment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Helpless Child

In order to warrant initial or continued consideration as a dependent child for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) purposes, any individual over the age of 18 who is not pursuing a course of instruction at an approved educational institution must be shown to have become permanently incapable of self-support by reason of mental or physical defect before attaining age 18.

VA must obtain the following to establish a dependent as a helpless child:

- the extent of the physical or mental deficiency both now and prior to the 18th birthday (examples: the ability to perform self-care functions and do ordinary tasks expected of a child of the same age)
- whether there's been any material improvement in the condition
- and whether the child has ever attended school, been employed, or married

Depending on the condition, it may be known long before the 18th birthday that the child will never be capable of self-support. But the "helpless" designation is for a person 18 or older, with the condition having begun before age 18. So, prior to age 18, that dependent is simply a minor child. On or after age 18, he or she may be designated a helpless child.

Parents

For dependency purposes, VA defines a parent as:

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- biological
- adoptive
- foster parent (a person who stands in place of a Veteran's parent for a continuous period of at least one year.

Financial need is always a factor dependency benefits are paid for a parent. There are no pension benefits as a beneficiary or dependent for parents. For DIC, VA can only pay that benefit to a parent if the Veteran's death was service connected.

To pay dependency benefits for a parent, we do need documentation proving the relationship of the parent to the Veteran. For example, the birth certificate or adoption papers.

Apportionments

What is an apportionment?

An apportionment is when VA takes all or part of the benefits being paid to a Veteran or to a surviving spouse, and instead pays that money to a spouse, child, or parent.

When an apportionment claim is received, VA must review the evidence submitted by both the claimant as well as the Veteran/beneficiary. VA must consider the following:

- if the claimant does not reside with the beneficiary
- beneficiary is not providing a reasonable level of support to the claimant
- financial hardship on the part of the claimant
- if the apportionment will cause an undue hardship on the beneficiary and his/her other dependents.
- Amount of VA benefits payable
- Other resources of income of the beneficiary and claimant
- Special needs of the beneficiary, beneficiary's other dependents and the claimant

Who May Receive an Apportionment?

An apportionment may be paid to:

- estranged spouse
- child that is in an estranged or former spouse's custody
- child that is not living with the Veteran or the Veteran's surviving spouse
- dependent parent

VA may apportion benefits to a dependent, even if the dependent is not on the beneficiary's award, as long as the dependent's relationship to the Veteran, on

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whose service the award is based, is properly established. However, VA cannot add such a dependent to the award unless the beneficiary submits the appropriate form.

How to Apply

The claimant must:

- file a claim on VA form 21-0788, Information Regarding Apportionment of Beneficiary's Award
- live apart from the beneficiary

- demonstrate a financial need for the benefits
- and not be receiving a reasonable level of support from the beneficiary

When does the VA not Pay an Apportionment?

There are numerous reasons why VA will not pay an apportionment, even if the claimant meets the above-mentioned requirements. Two of the most common reasons are:

- the beneficiary's benefit amount is so small that it does not allow payment of a reasonable amount to an apportionee
- or the amount available for the apportionee would be so small that it would provide little or no mitigation of the apportionee's need

How much does VA Apportion?

When making the decision on whether to grant an apportionment request and the amount thereof, the Veterans Service Representative (VSR) will consider the information on the 21-0788, any other evidence in support of the claimant's request, and the beneficiary's side of the story as well. Incomes and expenses of both parties will be considered, along with any special needs anyone has. It can be a difficult decision that doesn't satisfy either party.

Forms & How to Apply

If a claimant is applying for a benefit like compensation or pension, some forms (like the 526EZ) tell the claimant to include a 686c with the application.

If benefits have already been awarded and now the beneficiary wants to add a dependent or advise us of a change in dependency, there are various forms which we'll explore in a moment.

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The KM article ["Dependency Issues -Procedural Changes and FAQs"](#) provides detailed information on procedural guidance for PCRs to advise callers as well as what actions must be taken on specific dependency issues.

Spouse or minor child: 21-686c

If there is a "main" dependency form, it's VA form 21-686c, now called "Application Request to Add and/or Remove Dependents." This form can be used to advise VA of marital status and/or dependent children.

VA Regional Office (RO) and call center employees may also fill out and sign a 686c on behalf of the claimant with a wet or digital signature. In addition, RO and call center employees may complete and sign a 674 on behalf of the claimant. (but not a 674b or any other form) (M21-1 VII.i.1.A)

School Child: 21-674, 21-674b & 21-8960

Three forms relate to a child aged 18 to 23 who's attending school:

- VA form [21-674](#), Request for Approval of School Attendance
- VA form [21-674b](#), School Attendance Report
- VA form [21-8960-1](#), Certification of School Attendance or Termination

The 21-674 is necessary to approve the school attendance for a school-age child. The 21-674 is completed by the claimant, who is usually the adult receiving or claiming benefits for the child. If the Veteran is living and claiming the school age child as a dependent, the Veteran will complete the application.

The child will fill out the form only if he or she will be entitled to receive direct payment of the VA benefit. Examples of this scenario include a school-age child applying for an apportionment or Dependency Indemnity Compensation in their own right.

The 21-674b is to verify that school attendance began and ended as expected or to report any deviations from those expected dates. This form is also used to report any variations from expected dates of attendance.

The 21-8960, is one that VA automatically generates, generally in March of each year, to verify the child is attending school and intends to continue doing so through the date school attendance is scheduled to end. The beneficiary can complete and submit that form, or the same information may be captured on VA form 27-0820, Report of General Information.M21-1 VII.ii.1.B

Verification: 21P-0537 & 21-0538

The purpose of these brief and easy forms is to let us know if there have been any changes in dependency status, so we can adjust the award accordingly.

- [21P-0537](#), Marital Status Questionnaire
- and [21-0538](#), Mandatory Status of Dependents

Parent: 21-509

For parents who are dependents, the form is [21P-509](#), Statement of Dependency of Parent(s), which collects information on net worth, income, expenses, and who is living in the household.

Common-Law Marriage Forms

VA form [21-4170](#), Statement of Marital History, may be needed when the Veteran wishes to add his or her spouse from a common-law marriage. If the Veteran is living, both the Veteran and the spouse sign this form; otherwise, just the surviving spouse.

In addition, [VA Form 21P-4171](#), Supporting Statement Regarding Marriage, may be needed from two people who knew of the relationship

Apportionment Forms

- the [21-0788](#), Information Regarding Apportionment of Beneficiary's Award, is the form used by the claimant to file for an apportionment of the Veteran's or surviving spouse's VA benefits

Rules-Based Processing Systems (RBPS)

Rules Based Processing System automatically and quickly processes some dependency claims. RBPS accepts only compensation-related dependency claims.

RBPS cannot process the following:

- adopted children
- helpless children
- homeschooled children over 18
- a school child whose tuition is paid by the Federal government
- if withholding for attorney fees is involved
- or if the Veteran has a foreign address

Those RBPS "rejects" are worked by a human being, just like all the rest of the non-RBPS dependency claims.

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If a customer is asking about the status of a dependency claim that was not submitted through eBenefits and it's one that can be handled by RBPS, advise the Veteran to resubmit the claim through eBenefits for faster processing. RBPS claims are often processed within just a few days and notification will be sent to the Veteran shortly after that.

Contractors

The KM article "[Dependency Issues - Procedural Changes and FAQs](#)," explains there are also private contractors working on dependency claims. M21-1 VII.i.1.D non-VA employees (also known as "VA Support Personnel") make calls to claimants from (877) 764-0009 and may identify themselves as the "VA Claims Processing Office." If a customer asks if those folks are legit, they are.

Effective Date Determination

If the claim to add a dependent is received within one year from the date of the letter notifying the beneficiary VA granted benefits at 30% or higher, the effective date is the effective date the benefits were granted at the 30% rate or higher, or the date of the event, whichever is later.

If the claim to add a dependent is received within one year from the date of the event (marriage), the effective date is the date of the event or the effective date benefits were granted at the 30% rate or higher, whichever is later.

If neither of the above situations applies, the effective date for adding the dependent is the date VA received the claim.

PCRs must refrain from advising a caller of exactly how far back retroactive benefits will be granted. PCRs must refrain from adjudicating claims and speaking in absolutes. The Regional Office will make the determination for the effective date based on the evidence of record. PCRs should advise callers that if benefits are granted, the Regional Office will notify the claimant in writing of the effective date of any award.

Interactive Activity

Use the rate charts in KM to determine the appropriate answer.

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1. How much does a Veteran with a 40% disability rating receive?
2. How much does a Veteran with a 60% disability rating and a spouse receive?
3. What is the amount for each additional child under age 18 amount for a Veteran with a 60% disability?
4. How much does a Veteran with one child and a 50% disability rating receive?
5. How much does a Veteran rated at 100%, one spouse, 3 minor children and 1 school age child receive?

Practical Application

Review the scenarios provided. Research the answer. How would you explain your answer if a caller asked these questions? Which resources would you use to justify your explanation?

1. Veteran calls to ask if he can be paid additional money for having a spouse. He is rated 100% service connected. Can he add a spouse to his award?
2. What is the maximum age a school age child can stay on the Veteran's award?
3. The mother of the Veteran's child calls to see about getting help from VA to help her since the Veteran is not paying child support or helping at all with the expenses of their child. What options are available for VA to provide assistance? What information is the PCR required to provide the caller?

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4. Veteran calls to ask if she can get paid back to the date she married her spouse. Can VA pay her backpay when she adds the spouse to her award?

5. Veteran and their spouse are both Veterans rated 30% or higher. Can both receive additional disability compensation for each other and their children?

Knowledge Check

1. Which of the following is an eligibility requirement to add a dependent to an award?
 - a. VA disability rating of 10% or more
 - b. VA disability rating of 30% or more
 - c. VA disability rating of 50% or more
 - d. VA disability rating of 80% or more
 - e. VA disability rating of 100%
2. Who can be a dependent?
 - a. A spouse
 - b. A minor biological child
 - c. A minor stepchild
 - d. A parent
 - e. All of the above
3. True or False. VA does not recognize same-sex marriage.
4. True or False. VA does recognize common law marriage.
5. True or False. Regional Counsel opinion regarding the validity of the marriage is never required for a tribal, proxy or transgender marriage.
6. The two reasons for a marriage to terminate are:
 - a. Death or divorce
 - b. Death or separation
 - c. Divorce or annulment
 - d. Separation or annulment
7. True or False. A divorce decree is always required in order to remove a spouse from the Veteran's award.
8. What is the age range for a school-age child to be a dependent?
 - a. 18-21

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- b. 18-23
- c. 18-25
- d. 18-26
- e. 18 or over

9. Who cannot receive an apportionment?

- a. An estranged spouse (with a minor child with the Veteran)
- b. A divorced spouse (with a minor child with the Veteran)
- c. An estranged spouse (without a child with the Veteran)
- d. A divorced spouse (without a child with the Veteran)

10. Which form is used to add a school-age child to an award?

- a. 21-0538
- b. 21-509
- c. 21-4170
- d. 21-0788
- e. 21-674