



## PENSION AND FIDUCIARY SERVICE

PMC VSR Advanced Core Course  
Phase 5: Stages of a Claim  
Part 1: Determine Eligibility

# **Lesson 25: Determine Burial Benefits Eligibility**

Appendix B

September 19, 2017

Version 1.0

**Lesson 25: Determine Burial Benefits Eligibility**  
**Appendix B Exercise Worksheet**

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**Exercise Worksheet**

Read the scenario assigned to your group. Work with your group to answer the questions provided. Be prepared to discuss your answers with the class.

**Scenario 1—Group 2**

You received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, signed by the spouse of a deceased Veteran. The surviving spouse indicated on the form that the burial allowance requested was NSC death. You reviewed the Award Information tab, which shows that the Veteran had no running Compensation or Pension (C&P) award. You also reviewed the Claims/Denials tab, which showed that the Veteran had no claims pending at his death. When you checked the Inactive Compensation and Pension (ICP) BIRLS screen, it showed no RSN 19 indicating Military Retirement paid in lieu of Compensation. VA Form 21P-530 and BIRLS record show that the Veteran served during WWII. VA Form 21P-530 also shows the Veteran died at home. The surviving spouse did not include a copy of the death certificate with request.

1. Who is the claimant?
2. Does the claimant meet the eligibility requirements to receive burial benefits?
3. What kind of burial allowance is requested?
4. Is development required to determine eligibility? If so, for what?
5. Assuming all developed evidence was received, should this claim be submitted to the rating activity? Why or why not?

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**Scenario 2—Group 3**

You received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, signed by the nephew of a deceased Veteran. SC death was checked on the form. You reviewed the Award Information and discovered that the Veteran had a running Compensation award for coronary artery disease that was rated at 60%. The Veteran's death certificate lists coronary artery disease as the cause of death and states she died at home. You reviewed the VA Form 21P-530 and noticed the claimant checked "Yes" to expenses incurred and stated the Veteran is not buried at a national cemetery. The Veteran's nephew did not include any receipts or statements of account along with the VA Form 21P-530.

1. Who is the claimant?
2. Does the claimant meet the eligibility requirements to receive burial benefits?
3. What kind of burial allowance is requested?
4. Is development required to determine eligibility? If so, for what?
5. Assuming all developed evidence was received, should this claim be submitted to the rating activity? Why or why not?

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**Scenario 3—Group 1**

You received VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits, and a letter from the father of a deceased Veteran. Your review of the Award Information tab showed that the Veteran had a running Compensation award for 80% for traumatic brain injury (TBI). The father's letter states the Veteran received the TBI while serving in Afghanistan, he was depressed, and he took his own life one morning before work. As you read VA Form 21P-530, you discover that the Veteran was cremated, his cremains are in a columbarium at a national cemetery, and that the father paid \$500 in transportation expenses as indicated on a receipt from funeral home. You pulled an SSA print confirming the Veteran's date of death.

1. Who is the claimant?
2. Does the claimant meet the eligibility requirements to receive burial benefits?
3. What kind of burial allowance is requested?
4. Is development required to determine eligibility? If so, for what?
5. Assuming all developed evidence was received, should this claim be submitted to the rating activity? Why or why not?