

## Burial Decision Element Job Aid

This document is applicable to VBMS-A functionality. It provides the paragraph text that will automatically generate within the letter after making the selection indicated.

SC Burial Benefit	ADL text after selection of element met or not met:	When to choose this element:
Veteran Entitlement	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran’s military service met the criteria for burial benefits. (38 CFR 3.1701)	Use when service has been verified and meets the requirements of qualifying service for burials. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.1.a.-b.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> The Veteran’s military service does not meet the criteria for burial benefits. (38 CFR 3.1701)	Use when service has been verified and does not meet the requirements of qualifying service.
	<b>N/A:</b>	Mark the element as N/A when service is not verified.
Proper Claimant	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing you are an eligible claimant who may receive burial benefits and you are the first person to file. (38 CFR 3.1702)	Use when the claimant meets the criteria of an eligible claimant (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.3.b.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You are not an eligible claimant who may receive burial benefits, or this burial benefit has already been paid. (38 CFR 3.1702)	Use when the claimant does not meet the criteria of an eligible claimant
Proof of Death	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing proof of the Veteran’s death. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when VA receives one of the following pieces of evidence: phone call reporting death, data match with SSA confirming death or death certificate of Veteran. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.4.e.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide evidence showing proof of the Veteran’s death. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when VA does not have one of the pieces of evidence listed above.
Cost Incurred	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence certifying you incurred the costs. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when the claimant answers “Yes” to question 15A from 21P-530 or question 22A from 21P-530EZ or provides evidence expenses were incurred. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.4.b.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide a claim or evidence certifying you incurred the costs. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when the claimant answers “No” to question 15A from 21P-530 or question 22A from 21P-530EZ or does not provide evidence expenses were incurred.

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**Note:** If SC burial benefits were denied because VA did not receive a death certificate, the following free text needs to be added through the ADL generator: FTP for SC burial

NSC Burial Benefit	ADL text after selection of element met or not met:	When to choose this element:
Veteran Entitlement	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran’s military service met the criteria for burial benefits. (38 CFR 3.1701)</p>	Use when service has been verified and meets the requirements of qualifying service for burials. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.1.a-b.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> The Veteran’s military service does not meet the criteria for burial benefits. (38 CFR 3.1701)</p>	Use when service has been verified and does not meet the requirements of qualifying service.
	<p><b>N/A:</b></p>	Mark the element as N/A when service is not verified.
Proper Claimant	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing you are an eligible claimant who may receive burial benefits and you are the first person to file. (38 CFR 3.1702)</p>	Use when the claimant meets the criteria of an eligible claimant (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.3.b.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You are not an eligible claimant who may receive burial benefits, or this burial benefit has already been paid. (38 CFR 3.1702)</p>	Use when the claimant does not meet the criteria of an eligible claimant
Proof of Death	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing proof of the Veteran’s death. (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when VA receives one of the following pieces of evidence: phone call reporting death, data match with SSA confirming death or death certificate of Veteran. (M21- XI.iii.1.A.4.e.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide evidence showing proof of the Veteran’s death. (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when VA does not have one of the pieces of evidence listed above.
Cost Incurred	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence certifying you incurred the costs. (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when the claimant answers “Yes” to question 15A from 21P-530 or question 22A from 21P-530EZ or provides evidence expenses were incurred for burial. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.4.b.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide a claim or evidence certifying you incurred the costs. (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when the claimant answers “No” to question 15A from 21P-530 or question 22A from 21P-530EZ or does not provide evidence expenses were incurred.
C&P Eligibility	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran was eligible to receive, or</p>	Use when evidence in VA’s possession on or before the date of the beneficiary’s death, even if the evidence was not

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	<p>was retroactively found to have been eligible to receive disability compensation or VA pension. (38 CFR 3.1705)</p> <p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide evidence showing that the Veteran was eligible to receive, or was retroactively found to have been eligible to receive disability compensation or VA pension. (38 CFR 3.1705)</p>	<p>physically located in the VA claims folder on or before the date of death. (M21-1, XI.ii.3.A.4.c.)</p> <p>Use when evidence is not in VA's possession on or before the date of the beneficiary's death, even if the evidence was not physically located in the VA claims folder on or before the date of death.</p>
Timeliness	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You submitted your claim or evidence within the applicable non-service connected burial claim submission time limit requirement (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when the burial application was received within 2 years of the Veteran's permanent burial/cremation. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.2.a.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not submit your claim or evidence within the applicable non-service-connected burial claim submission time limit requirement. (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when the burial application was received after 2 years of the Veteran's permanent burial/cremation.
VA Hospitalization Death	<p><b>Element Met:</b> The Veteran died of a non-service-connected condition while hospitalized by VA, was otherwise in the custody of VA, or while a patient at a State Veterans home. (38 CFR 3.1706)</p>	Use when we are able to verify death under VA care. (NOTE: you may need to check your denial reason). (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.4.a.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> The claim or evidence did not show that the Veteran passed away while hospitalized by VA, in the custody of VA, or while a patient at an approved State Veterans home. (38 CFR 3.1706)</p>	Use when we are not able to verify death under VA care.
Insufficient Resources for Estate	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence indicating that there are not sufficient resources available in the Veteran's estate to cover the burial and funeral expenses. (38 CFR 3.1708)</p>	To be used when the claimant is a Funeral Home administrator or other third party, the Veterans remains are unclaimed and there are no funds in the Veteran's estate. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.7.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> There are sufficient resources available in the Veteran's estate to cover the burial and funeral expenses. (38 CFR 3.1708)</p>	To be used when all requirements of unclaimed remains are not met.
	<p><b>N/A:</b></p>	Mark the element as N/A when unclaimed remains are NOT being claimed.
Remains are Unclaimed	<p><b>Element Met:</b></p>	To be used when claimant is FH director or other third party and the Veterans

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	You provided a claim or evidence indicating there are no next of kin or other persons claiming the remains of the deceased Veteran. (38 CFR 3.1708)	remains are unclaimed and there are no funds in the Veteran's estate. (M21-1,XI.iii.1.B.7.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You are not an eligible claimant or entity that may receive burial benefits because someone has claimed the remains of the Veteran. (38 CFR 3.1708)	To be used when all requirements of unclaimed remains are not met.
	<b>N/A:</b>	Mark the element as N/A when unclaimed remains are NOT being claimed.

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Plot Allowance	ADL text after selection of element met or not met:	When to choose this element:
Veteran Entitlement	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran's military service met the criteria for burial benefits. (38 CFR 3.1701)	Use when service has been verified and meets the requirements of qualifying service for burials. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.1.a-b.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> The Veteran's military service does not meet the criteria for burial benefits. (38 CFR 3.1701)	Use when service has been verified and does not meet the requirements of qualifying service.
	<b>N/A:</b>	Mark the element as N/A when service is not verified.
Proper Claimant	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing you are an eligible claimant who may receive burial benefits and you are the first person to file. (38 CFR 3.1702)	Use when the claimant meets the criteria of an eligible claimant (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.3.b.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You are not an eligible claimant who may receive burial benefits, or this burial benefit has already been paid. (38 CFR 3.1702)	Use when the claimant does not meet the criteria of an eligible claimant
Proof of Death	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing proof of the Veteran's death. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when VA receives one of the following pieces of evidence: phone call reporting death, data match with SSA confirming death or death certificate of Veteran. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.4e.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide evidence showing proof of the Veteran's death. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when VA does not have one of the pieces of evidence listed above.
Cost Incurred	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence certifying you incurred the costs. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when the claimant answers "Yes" to question 17A from 21P-530 or question 23 from 21P-530EZ or provides evidence expenses were incurred for plot or interment. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.4.c.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide a claim or evidence certifying you incurred the costs. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when the claimant answers "No" to question 17A from 21P-530 or question 23 from 21P-530EZ or

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		does not provide evidence expenses were incurred.
C&P Eligibility	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran was eligible to receive, or was retroactively found to have been eligible to receive disability compensation or VA pension. (38 CFR 3.1707)</p>	Use when evidence in VA's possession on or before the date of the beneficiary's death, even if the evidence was not physically located in the VA claims folder on or before the date of death. (M21-1, XI.ii.3.A.4.c)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide evidence showing that the Veteran was eligible to receive, or was retroactively found to have been eligible to receive disability compensation or VA pension. (38 CFR 3.1707)</p>	Use when evidence is not in VA's possession on or before the date of the beneficiary's death, even if the evidence was not physically located in the VA claims folder on or before the date of death.
VA Hospitalization Death	<p><b>Element Met:</b> The Veteran died of a non-service-connected condition while hospitalized by VA, was otherwise in the custody of VA, or while a patient at a State Veterans home. (38 CFR 3.1706)</p>	Use when we are able to verify death under VA care. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.4.a.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> The claim or evidence did not show that the Veteran passed away while hospitalized by VA, in the custody of VA, or while a patient at an approved State Veterans home. (38 CFR 3.1706)</p>	Use when VA death is claimed and we are not able to verify death under VA care.
	<p><b>N/A:</b></p>	Use when VA death is not claimed and we are not able to verify death under VA care.

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State Plot Allowance	ADL text after selection of element met or not met:	When to choose this element:
Veteran Entitlement	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran's military service met the criteria for burial benefits. (38 CFR 3.1701)	Use when service has been verified and meets the requirements of qualifying service for burials. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.1.a.-b.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> The Veteran's military service does not meet the criteria for burial benefits.	Use when service has been verified and does not meet the requirements of qualifying service.
Proof of Death	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing proof of the Veteran's death. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when VA receives one of the following pieces of evidence: phone call reporting death, data match with SSA confirming death or death certificate of Veteran. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.4.e.).
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You did provide evidence showing proof of the Veteran's death.	Use when VA does not have one of the pieces of evidence listed above.
State Plot Eligibility	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran was eligible for consolidated state plot or interment allowance. (38 CFR 3.1707)	Use this when VA has evidence showing that the Veteran was buried in a State Veterans cemetery, or section of a cemetery, that is owned by the State. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.5.a.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide evidence showing that the Veteran was buried in a State Veterans cemetery, or section of a cemetery, that is owned by the State.	Use this when VA does not have evidence showing that the Veteran was buried in a State Veterans cemetery, or section of a cemetery, that is owned by the State.
Transportation Benefit	ADL text after selection of element met or not met:	When to choose this element:
Veteran Entitlement	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran's military service met the criteria for burial benefits. (38 CFR 3.1701)	Use when service has been verified and meets the requirements of qualifying service for burials. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.1.a-b., and M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.6.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> The Veteran's military service does not meet the criteria for burial benefits. (38 CFR 3.1701)	Use when service has been verified and does not meet the requirements of qualifying service.
	<b>N/A:</b>	Mark the element as N/A when service is not verified.

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Proper Claimant	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing you are an eligible claimant who may receive burial benefits and you are the first person to file. (38 CFR 3.1702)</p>	Use when the claimant meets the criteria of an eligible claimant (M21-1, XI.iii.1.A.3.b.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You are not an eligible claimant who may receive burial benefits, or this burial benefit has already been paid. (38 CFR 3.1702)</p>	Use when the claimant does not meet the criteria of an eligible claimant
Proof of Death	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing proof of the Veteran's death. (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when VA receives one of the following pieces of evidence: phone call reporting death, data match with SSA confirming death or death certificate of Veteran. (M21-XI.iii.1.A.4.e.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide evidence showing proof of the Veteran's death. (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when VA does not have one of the pieces of evidence listed above.
Cost Incurred	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence certifying you incurred the costs. (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when the claimant inputs a positive number in question 19 from 21P-530 or the claimant answers "Yes" to question 24 from 21P-530EZ or provides evidence expenses were incurred for transportation. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.6.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide a claim or evidence certifying you incurred the costs. (38 CFR 3.1703)</p>	Use when the claimant does not input a positive value in question 19 from 21P-530 or the claimant answers "No" to question 24 from 21P-530EZ or does not provide evidence expenses were incurred.
C&P Eligibility	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran was eligible to receive, or was retroactively found to have been eligible to receive disability compensation or VA pension. (38 CFR 3.1709)</p>	Use when evidence in VA's possession on or before the date of the beneficiary's death, even if the evidence was not physically located in the VA claims folder on or before the date of death. (M21-1, XI.ii.3.A.4.c)"
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide evidence showing that the Veteran was eligible to receive, or was retroactively found to have been eligible to receive disability</p>	Use when the denial reason is NO C&P.



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	compensation or VA pension. (38 CFR 3.1705)	
National Cemetery	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran was buried in a National cemetery. (38 CFR 3.1709)	Use when we can verify burial in National Cemetery, and we can pay transportation because of the burial in the National cemetery. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.6.)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide a claim or evidence showing the Veteran was buried in a National cemetery. (38 CFR 3.1709)	Use if you denied transportation and we cannot verify burial in National cemetery.
Covered Veterans' Cemetery*  *Information will need to be entered as free text when choosing the appropriate elements.	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran was buried in a covered Veterans' cemetery. (38 U.S.C. 2308)	Use when we can verify burial in a covered Veterans' cemetery and we can pay transportation because of the burial in a covered Veterans' cemetery.
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide a claim or evidence showing that the Veteran was buried in a covered Veterans' cemetery. (38 U.S.C. 2308)	Use if you denied transportation and we cannot verify burial in a covered Veterans' cemetery.
Reimbursement of Transportation Expenses	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided an itemized receipt or statement of transportation expenses. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when there is evidence of record to meet requirements of (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.6)
	<b>Element Not Met:</b> You did not provide an itemized receipt or statement of transportation expenses that included who paid the costs, the name of the deceased Veteran, the specific transportation expenses incurred, and the dates of the services rendered. (38 CFR 3.1703)	Use when an itemized receipt or statement of transportation expenses identifying who paid the costs is not of record. (M21-1 XI.iii.1.B.6.c.)
<b>Veterans Unclaimed Remains</b>	<b>ADL text after selection of element met or not met:</b>	<b>When to choose this element:</b>
Remains are Unclaimed	<b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence indicating there are no next of kin or other persons claiming the remains of the deceased Veteran. (38 CFR 3.1708)	To be used when claimant is FH director or other third party and the Veterans remains are unclaimed and there are no funds in the Veteran's estate. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.7.)

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<b>Element Not Met:</b> You are not an eligible claimant or entity that may receive burial benefits because someone has claimed the remains of the Veteran. (38 CFR 3.1708)	To be used when all requirements of unclaimed remains are not met.
<b>N/A:</b>	Mark the element as N/A when unclaimed remains are NOT being claimed.

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VA Hospitalization Death	<p><b>Element Met:</b> The Veteran died of a non-service-connected condition while hospitalized by VA, was otherwise in the custody of VA, or while a patient at a State Veterans home. (38 CFR 3.1706)</p>	Use when we are able to verify death under VA care and the remains are unclaimed. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.7.c.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> The claim or evidence did not show that the Veteran passed away while hospitalized by VA, in the custody of VA, or while a patient at an approved State Veterans home. (38 CFR 3.1706)</p>	Use when VA death is claimed and we are not able to verify death under VA care.
	<p><b>N/A:</b></p>	Use when VA death is not claimed and we are not able to verify death under VA care.
Insufficient Resources for Estate	<p><b>Element Met:</b> You provided a claim or evidence indicating that there are not sufficient resources available in the Veteran's estate to cover the burial and funeral expenses. (38 CFR 3.1708)</p>	To be used when the claimant is a Funeral Home administrator or other third party, the Veterans remains are unclaimed and there are no funds in the Veteran's estate. (M21-1, XI.iii.1.B.7.)
	<p><b>Element Not Met:</b> There are sufficient resources available in the Veteran's estate to cover the burial and funeral expenses. (38 CFR 3.1708)</p>	To be used when all requirements of unclaimed remains are not met.
	<p><b>N/A:</b></p>	Mark the element as N/A when unclaimed remains are NOT being claimed.