Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office

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Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

What is DIC?

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a monthly monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of certain deceased Veterans. Current basic DIC rate is $1,254.19 per month.

Who is Eligible?

To receive DIC, you must be an eligible survivor of a Veteran who died because of a service-related illness or injury. If the Veteran's death was NOT service-related, you may still be eligible if EITHER of the following conditions existed at the time of death:

- The Veteran was receiving VA Disability Compensation for a total disability for the last ten (10) years. *(Note: This also includes Veterans who would have received VA compensation but did not because they were receiving military retirement of disability pay.)*
- The Veteran was receiving VA Disability Compensation for a total disability continuously since released from active duty for at least five (5) years.

You may be an eligible survivor if:

- You were married to the Veteran for at least one (1) year *(Note: If a child was born, there is no time requirement)*, **AND**
- Your marriage was valid, **AND**
- You lived with the Veteran continuously until his/her death or, if you were separated, you weren't at fault, **AND**
- You did not remarry. *(Note: If you remarried but your spouse died or you started legal proceedings before November 1, 1990 that led to divorce, you may be eligible.)* **OR**
- You are an unmarried child of a deceased Veteran, **AND**
- You are under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

Note: Certain helpless adult children and some parents of deceased Veterans are entitled to DIC.