

Military Retiree Survivor Preparation

DD 214 (From Retirement)	Life Insurance Policies/Will / Trusts
Military Retirement Orders	OPM Retiree Booklet
Annual Retiree Account Statement (myPay) www.mypay.com	VA Statement of Benefits; VA <i>rating letter</i>, DIC (Dependency & Indemnity Compensation)
Former spouse; Divorce Decree & Death Cert	Marriage License(s)

****When a military retiree passes away, their retirement pay STOPS. Survivor Benefits, elected at military retirement is the only way for a spouse to partially continue the retirement pay.****

*****Surviving family members/Widows – prepare to go 6-8 months without any regular annuity payments flowing into your bank account.***

Within 5-7 days upon the passing of a military retiree a surviving family member or close friend:

1. Contact Defense Financial and Accounting Services (**DFAS**)
 - a. **1-800-321-1080 (M-F 0730- 1630 Eastern)**
 - b. (listen for prompt – “REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIREE”)
OR you can go online to the dfas.mil site and report electronically, see the link:
<https://go.usa.gov/xnzQ9>
 - i. DFAS will mail out a condolence package to the beneficiary or the estate of the deceased service member.
2. If a member is receiving VA compensation – Contact Veteran’s Affairs to notify them as well
 - a. **1-800-827-1000**
 - i. **VA** should mail out a condolence package to the beneficiary or the estate of the deceased service member.
3. If member was a Civil Service Employee - Contact Office of Personnel Management (**OPM**)
 - a. **1-888-767-6738 OR**
 - b. Civil Service Retiree death reporting **online:** <https://www.opm.gov/retirements-services/my-annuity-and-benefits/life-events/death/report-of-death/>
4. Contact Social Security if eligible to receive benefits (disabled, 60+, children under 18)
 - a. **1-800-772-1213**

Within 30-days:

1. Notify Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (**DEERs**) at 1-800-538-9552
2. TRICARE West – 1-844-866-9378 / Mon-Fri 5am – 9pm (**Pacific**)
-Re-enroll, set-up new payments for coverage (single plan) **within 60-days**
3. BeneFeds – 1-877-888-3337 (Dental /Vision)
- Re-enroll, set-up new payments for coverage (single plan) **within 60-days**

Survivors:

DFAS (military retirement), OPM (civil service employee/retirement), Social Security, all three of these agencies will take back pay that was issued in the month the member passed and will only replace it upon completing claims. (*Can take 6-8 months for these to pay correctly*)

Contacting DFAS as soon as possible following retiree's passing to **stop the retirement pay** from flowing for that month. DFAS' cut-off is the 20th of the month. If a member passes or their death is reported after the 20th of the month, retirement pay will be deposited and once DFAS is made aware either by reporting directly through DFAS, or by Social Security reporting, DFAS will take back that month's pay.

Unpaid Pay claim, SF 1174 - can be completed by the designated beneficiary or legal order of precedence (all children will have to complete a SF 1174 if no specific beneficiary is designated). The claimant for the Unpaid Pay is who will receive the **1099-R** to complete the deceased retiree's taxes next year.

****Unpaid Pay** – takes **approximately 60-days after DFAS receives the claim**. It is **no more** than one-month of pay and is only the **number of days the retiree was alive** in the month they pass.

Survivor Benefits claim (military), DD 2656-7, “if” the member paid into SBP their eligible beneficiary could receive an annuity that is 55% of their selected base amount. Refer to most recent Retiree Account Statement from mail or mypay or inquire when you notify DFAS.

- Survivor Benefit **Changes due to loss of spouse** or Unpaid pay updates
 - Death certificate and we will complete a DD 2656-6 (change)
- Annuitant Deaths are also report by calling DFAS 1-800-321-1080
 - When a spouse or child is receiving SBP

Whiteman AFB Casualty Affairs Rep:

Please call or email to **make an appointment!** Jennifer.sponseller.2@us.af.mil / 660-687-6434

- Advise/assist widow/widower/family member on:
 - Arrears of Pay (AoP) application (SF 1174)
 - Survivor Benefits application (DD Form 2656-7)
 - W4P, State Residency, Direct Deposit
 - Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) claim
 - ID Card renewal / DEERs
 - Tricare considerations
 - Dental / Vision considerations
 - VA Presidential Certificate request
 - Some VA forms (if applicable)