

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Fact Sheet

Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
www.va.gov

### Monetary Burial Benefits Regulation Change

**VA is changing its monetary burial benefits regulations to simplify the program and pay eligible survivors more quickly and efficiently. These regulations, effective today, 7 July 2014, will authorize VA to pay, without a written application, most eligible surviving spouses basic monetary burial benefits at the maximum amount authorized in law through automated systems rather than reimbursing them for actual costs incurred.**

- Under the current regulations, VA pays for burial and funeral expenses on a reimbursement basis, which requires survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally pays at the maximum amount permitted by law.
- The new burial regulations will permit VA to pay, at a flat rate, burial and plot or interment allowances thereby enabling VA to automate payment of burial benefits to most eligible surviving spouses and more efficiently process other burial benefit claims.
- The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

**These changes will help survivors of Veterans bear the cost of funerals by changing regulations to get them the benefits they deserve more quickly.**

**The monetary burial benefits regulations will do the following:**

- Restructure, consolidate, and clarify VA's current monetary burial benefits regulations to make them easier for Veterans, their survivors, and other stakeholders to understand,
- Clearly establish VA's priority of payments and enable automated payment to most eligible surviving spouses,
- Remove the requirement for most *eligible* surviving spouses to file a claim for basic burial allowances and simplify the burial claims process for all beneficiaries,
- Establish in regulations a presumption that VA will pay the service-connected burial allowance for certain Veterans who were rated totally disabled from service-connected conditions at the date of death, and
- Implement portions of Public Law 112-260, authorizing monetary burial benefits for Veterans without wartime service whose remains are unclaimed.