

Surviving Spouse Checklist for Military Veteran

Consolidated from MOAA, VA, and Military Sources

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS – FIRST 24-48 HOURS

- Locate will, DD Form 214, account numbers, marriage certificate, and important documents
- Obtain legal pronouncement of death from doctor
- Notify immediate family, friends, and employer (if applicable)
- Contact clergy person (if desired) and funeral director
- Place obituary
- Contact service branch Casualty Assistance Office:
 - Army: (888) 276-9472 (Opt 4)
 - Marine Corps: (800) 847-1597
 - Navy: (800) 368-3202
 - Air Force/Space Force: (800) 525-0102 (Opt 2 then 1)
 - Coast Guard: (571) 266-2375
- Contact VA Office of Survivors Assistance: (800) 827-1000
- If MOAA member: (800) 234-6622 or msc@moaa.org

NEXT STEPS – FIRST FEW DAYS TO 2 WEEKS

- Order 10-15 certified copies of death certificate
- Keep joint bank accounts open
- Report death for final retired pay (DFAS: 800-321-1080)
- Start Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity if enrolled
- Notify SSA: (800) 772-1213
- Notify VA for benefits (DIC, burial, etc.): (800) 827-1000
- Update DEERS/TRICARE: (800) 538-9552
- Contact credit bureaus for credit freeze
- Gather documents and contact VSO (e.g., DAV) for free claims help
- Apply for VA benefits using VA Form 21-0966 (Intent to File)

ONGOING TASKS

- Review bills, autopayments, titles on property
- Notify life insurance, financial institutions
- Close/memorialize email & social media accounts
- Seek grief support (VA Vet Centers, TAPS, Military OneSource)
- Review credit reports for fraud

Prepared with care • Always verify current information with official sources • Date: