

**Veteran Affairs (VA) Burial Allowances Process: Ensuring the next of kin (NOK) applies for partial reimbursements for eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs**

No.	Activity/Decision Point Name	Description	Regulations and Supporting Resources	Documents and Forms	Systems	Notes
1	Eligible to receive VA burial allowances?	<p>NOK may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if NOK paid for burial or funeral, and NOK has not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, and the casualty was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.</p> <p>In addition, one of the following conditions for the Soldier must be met: (1) died because of a service-related disability, (2) receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, (3) entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce military retirement or disability pay, (4) died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, (5) died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, (6) had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, or (7) died on or after 9OCT96, while a patient at a VA-approved State nursing home.</p>	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - Burial and Memorial Benefits Website			

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2	Obtain VA Form 21-530	NOK obtains VA Form 21-530 (Application for Burial Benefits) from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs website.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - Burial and Memorial Benefits Website	VA Form 21-530		If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) assists the NOK this step.
3	Complete VA Form 21-530	NOK completes VA Form 21-530 (Application for Burial Benefits).	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - Burial and Memorial Benefits Website	VA Form 21-530		If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the CAO assists the NOK this step.
4	Obtain necessary documentation	NOK obtains necessary documentation. Necessary documentation includes: - DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty) - Death certificate - Funeral and burial bills	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - Burial and Memorial Benefits Website	DD Form 214		If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the CAO assists the NOK this step.
5	Send VA Form 21-530 and necessary documentation	NOK sends VA Form 21-530 (Application for Burial Benefits) and necessary documentation to local VA office. Necessary documentation includes: - DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty) - Death certificate - Funeral and burial bills	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - Burial and Memorial Benefits Website	DD Form 214 VA Form 21-530		If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the CAO assists the NOK this step.

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6	Receive VA burial allowances	<p>NOK receives VA burial allowances.</p> <p>If the death was service related, VA pays up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA pays up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001.</p> <p>If the Soldier is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.</p> <p>If the death was non-service related, VA pays up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. The plot-interment allowance is \$150 for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the Soldier was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the Soldier's remains may be reimbursed.</p>	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - Burial and Memorial Benefits Website			