

General Information for Surviving Spouses

****Retired Dependent** status formally changes to **Surviving Spouse** Military ID card must be changed as soon as possible with permanent military ID at age 65. Call Military One Source at 800-342-9647 or ID card office locator and appointments <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator> . You need 2 original identity documents like driver's license, military/military dependents id card, and/or passport.

Additional Essential Documents for a surviving spouse:

1. **USER NAMES and PASSWORDS** Computer, streaming TV channels, home safe, etc.
2. **KEYS to "everything."** Keys should be marked for the keyhole they fit. Combinations to digital locks...such as car door.
3. **Retiree's DEATH CERTIFICATE** (10-15 copies) ...MUST STATE service connection
 - a. Cause of death can be changed, but very difficult to do.
4. **Retirement papers DD214** (if not available, call National Personnel Records Center at 1-314-801-0800) or Form 1300 Active-Duty death certificate.
5. **Marriage license/certificate** SBP may go to former spouse, if one.
6. **Divorce papers for prior spouse**...if one DIC is paid ONLY to current spouse
7. **Retired Pay Statements** - will provide Survivor's name and percentage of SBP. SBP is automatic. If it is declined, the survivor must sign in agreement. Print off SBP application, <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/survivors/ApplySBP/> review with spouse now.
8. **VA annual letter of disability award.** Keep claims documents...all information. Laws and programs change...don't know what you will need. Print off DIC application, <https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/> Review. If death is not service connected, but 100% Total and Permanent for 10 or more years, surviving spouse is eligible for VA benefits
9. Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles folder for **DV license plates** inherited by surviving spouse.
10. 100 % Perm and Total SC Virginia **property tax exemption** claims (2011). KIA and LOD active duty property tax exemptions (2014 and 2022).
11. Insurance named beneficiary...
12. **Pre-Need Burial application** <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/> VA National Cemeteries... wait time for burials.
13. **CHANGE of ADDRESSES** to TRICARE at <https://tricare.mil/LifeEvents/QLE> , DEERS at <https://www.tricare.mil/deers>, DFAS at www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death/, and VA at www.va.gov...DoD computer programs do not talk to each other.
14. **Military ID card** will need to be changed. From dependent to survivor...permanent after age 65 for survivor.
15. **Bank** may require a closing of joint account...new account created.
16. **Provide sufficient funds (bank account without survivorship) to pay burial or estate expenses.**

Updated 8/16/23 by Edie Smith at esmith@capitolcrusader.com with some revisions 1/15/25 by Sherry Ferki at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com.