

§ 21.7301

assistance through having met the eligibility requirements of § 21.7042.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3017(a))

(c) *Payee.* (1) VA shall pay a death benefit to the living person or persons in the order listed in this paragraph.

(i) The beneficiary or beneficiaries designated by the individual under the individual's Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Policy,

(ii) The surviving spouse of the individual,

(iii) The surviving child or children of the individual, in equal shares,

(iv) The surviving parent or parents of the individual in equal shares.

(2) If none of the persons listed in this paragraph is living, VA shall not pay a death benefit under this section.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3017(a)(2); Pub. L. 100-689) (July 1, 1985)

(d) *Amount of death benefit.* (1) The amount of any payment made under this section shall be equal to—

(i) The amount reduced from the individual's basic pay as provided in § 21.7042(f) less—

(ii) The total of—

(A) The amount of educational assistance that has been paid to the individual under 38 U.S.C. ch. 30, and

(B) The amount of accrued benefits paid or payable with respect to the individual.

(2) VA shall pay no death benefit when the amount determined by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph is zero or less than zero.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3017 (b) and (c); Pub. L. 100-689) (July 1, 1985)

[56 FR 20136, May 2, 1991, as amended at 57 FR 15026, Apr. 24, 1992; 61 FR 6791, Feb. 22, 1996]

ADMINISTRATIVE

§ 21.7301 Delegations of authority.

(a) *General delegation of authority.* Except as otherwise provided, authority is delegated to the Under Secretary for Benefits of VA, and to supervisory or adjudication personnel within the jurisdiction of the Education Service of VA designated by him or her, to make findings and decisions under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30 and the applicable regula-

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tions, precedents and instructions concerning the program authorized by that chapter.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 512(a))

(b) *Other delegations of authority.* In administering benefits payable under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30, VA shall apply § 21.4001(b), (c)(1) and (2) and (f) of this part in the same manner as those paragraphs are applied in the administration of 38 U.S.C. chapter 34.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 512(a), 3034, 3696; Pub. L. 98-525)

§ 21.7302 Finality of decisions.

(a) *Agency decisions generally are binding.* The decision of a VA facility of original jurisdiction on which an action is based—

(1) Will be final,

(2) Will be binding upon all field offices of the VA as to conclusions based on evidence on file at that time, and

(3) Will not be subject to revision on the same factual grounds except by duly constituted appellate authorities or except as provided in § 21.7303 of this part. (See §§ 19.192 and 19.193 of this chapter).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 511)

(b) *Decisions of an activity within VA.* Current determinations of line of duty and other pertinent elements of eligibility for a program of education made by either an Adjudicative activity or an Insurance activity by application of the same criteria and based on the same facts are binding one upon the other in the absence of clear and unmistakable error.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 511)

(c) *Character of discharge determinations.* (1) A determination of the character of a veteran's discharge made by a competent military or naval authority or by the Coast Guard is binding upon VA.

(2) Any determination of the character of a veteran's discharge made by VA in connection with the veteran's eligibility for a benefit other than educational assistance under 38 U.S.C.