



**Town of Sharon**  
**Department of Veteran**  
**Services**  
**90 SOUTH MAIN STREET**  
**SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS 02067**

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Director  
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Subject: Veterans Death Certificate

Dear Veteran:

Widow(er) may be eligible for VA Dependency and Compensation (DIC) if veteran cause of death is service connected.

Read Veteran Burial and Memorial Benefit link on Town of Sharon Veteran web site and if applicable, incorporate Death Certificate data for pre-planning.

Veteran who has a service connected disability documented by the VA needs to have family or appointed administrator aware of disability which may be determined for possible cause of eventual death. Hearing loss would not be considered cause of death. However, lung disease, certain cancer, heart disease etc., needs to be documented. Need VA award decision.

Principal and contributory cause of death must be documented on the Death Certificate signed by the medical doctor. This data is critical for VA Claim.

At time of death before certificate is prepared and signed, medical doctor needs service connected disability information to decide if cause of death for service connected disability is applicable.

During COVID-19 epidemic many death certificates only stated COVID-19 and nothing else. Result claim for DIC was denied since VA only had COVID-19 on the death certificate.

Service connected disability cause of death may result in allowance for other dependent entitlement for federal and Massachusetts agencies. Specific Criteria must be met and claim submitted as this is not automatic.

Search the VA web site VA.gov dependency- indemnity compensation to determine if spouse may be eligible.

Veteran Service Officer may be able to assist.

Very truly yours,

Paul R. Bergeron  
Director Veteran Services