



**Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs  
20 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Veterans Svs. Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-2562**

## **MDVA SURVIVING SPOUSE/DEPENDENT EDUCATION BENEFIT**

### *INFORMATION SHEET*

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide eligibility information regarding the MDVA SURVIVING SPOUSE/DEPENDENT Education Benefit administered by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. ***This benefit is state funded and can only be used by Minnesota residents who meet the eligibility criteria below.***

All telephone inquiries should be directed to the Department's general information number above. Written inquiries may be sent to the above address. Please include the **deceased Veteran's** social security number in correspondence.

### **Eligibility**

1. The applicant (Surviving Spouse/Dependent) shall be a resident of the State of Minnesota as defined in MN Statute 136A.101, subd. 8.
2. Deceased Veteran means a Veteran who has died as a result of the person's military service, as determined by the United States Veterans Administration, and who was a resident of this state when entering the United States armed forces or who was a resident for at least the six months prior to passing away due to a service connected disability as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
3. The Veteran must have died while on active duty, **or** as a result of a service-connected condition. This determination is made by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (US DVA), or other instrumentality of the United States.
4. The definition of "Eligible child" is the natural, adopted child, or stepchild of a deceased Veteran and is a student making satisfactory academic progress at an institution of higher education.
5. An "Eligible spouse" is the surviving spouse of a deceased Veteran.  
(Surviving spouse cannot be remarried to receive benefit)

## Benefits

1. Admission to Minnesota “institutions of university grade” (MNSCU – Minnesota State Colleges and Universities AND the University of Minnesota) free of tuition *until a bachelor’s degree (or equivalent degree) has been obtained.*
2. A maximum payment of \$750.00 in any one fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). This amount may be used for fees, books & supplies, and/or room & board. At institutions where the free tuition part of the program does not apply, it may also be used toward tuition.
3. This program may be used at a postsecondary educational institution located in the state that either (1) is operated by the state, or, (2) is operated publicly or privately and, as determined by the office, maintains academic standards substantially equivalent to those of comparable institutions operated in this state.

## How to Apply

**Note:** For assistance in applying for these benefits, you may contact your County Veterans Service Office in the county in which you live.

1. Complete the Department of Veterans Affairs application form (MDVA-3 APPLICATION FOR MDVA SURVIVING SPOUSE/DEPENDENT EDUCATION BENEFIT.)
2. Obtain proof of service-connected death of Veteran from the VA Regional Office and the veteran’s DD214, or other official notice of death while on active duty (Casualty Report, DD FORM 1300) from proper military authorities.
3. Provide a birth certificate and/or adoption papers (if adopted) and proof of current Minnesota residency per MN Statute 136.101 Subd. 8. If a step child, you must provide a birth certificate, marriage certificate of your natural parent to the Veteran, and proof that you were living in the household of the Veterans when they passed away due to a service connected disability.
4. Send the completed application to the address at the top of this sheet.

**5. You must reapply for the Education benefit each year (July 1 – June 30).** Subsequent applications should be submitted using the MDVA-3A RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR MDVA SURVIVING SPOUSE/DEPENDENT EDUCATION BENEFIT.