



PREPARING FOR THE INEVITABLE

I. PREPLANNING

- A. Claim Documents to have on hand:
1. Copy of Service Members DD-214 Discharge Form or if service was prior to 1948, Particular Service Separation Form
 - a. the website to request a DD214 is:
www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/
You can fill out the request and submit electronically.
 2. Military Service Number
 3. Copy of birth or death certificate - certified
 4. Copy of marriage license - certified
 5. Previous Service Number
 6. Specific VA Benefits Receiving (if any) and VA File Number
 7. Medical Records and Documents
 8. Financial Facts (depending on claim)
 9. Copy of Divorce papers- certified
 10. Financial Records; i.e., annuities, Social Security income, savings, etc.
- B. Funeral Arrangements -
1. Before proceeding with the following, establish a budget so that you will not be pressured into spending more than you are comfortable with. Everything you order in a time of stress will affect your budget.
 - a. If other family members request upgrades in funeral arrangements (including additional obituaries), state that the person requesting the upgrade will be financially responsible if these do not fit your budget. Upgrades can run into hundreds or thousands of dollars.
 2. Church Services - contact appropriate facility for booklet or information detailing necessary procedures
 3. Mortuary/Cemetery:
 - a. Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. For eligibility contact: 702-486-5920, 1900 Buchanan Boulevard, Boulder City NV 89005. Funeral arrangements for casket or cremation must be made through a funeral home of your choice. Prices vary, so please research carefully for best service and price. (See Attachment)
 - b. Neptune Society - 702-474-6699 - Military Discount may apply
 - c. Other mortuaries: listed online or phone directory. Get prices from each.

- d. Urns or coffins may be purchased at places other than mortuaries: i.e., Costco, Wal-Mart, etc.
- 4. Obituary: prepare ahead and put in folder labeled "Death" and filed in a safe place where family members can locate.
 - a. newspaper obits can run into thousands of dollars, hometown papers may be less. Check carefully before ordering
- 5. Reception, Memorial, Celebration of Life: Consider where, when and if one will be held. Preplanning with family will insure that this is the type of ceremony that will be in your budget as these events can be very simple or very elaborate
- 6. List of those to be notified should be in "Death" folder

**Note: If a family member requests additional services, upgrades, additional obituaries, please inform them that they will be responsible for the additional cost. Everything you order in a time of stress will affect your budget.

C. Financial Matters

- 1. Trust or Will: If this has not been done by you and your spouse, significant other or partner, this should be #1 on your list of things to do while preplanning.
- 2. Bank Accounts: Check with your attorney, financial advisor, CPA, brokerage as to how best to see that your checking accounts, charge accounts and brokerage accounts will be seamlessly available to whomever will be in charge of deceased accounts.
- 3. Consult with your attorney to prepare documents in accordance with your and your partner's wishes:
 - a. Power of Attorney - Financial. Without this and if one has dementia or a long term illness, it is very difficult to close out credit and bank accounts.
 - b.. Power of Attorney - Health. Determine what decisions you and your partner want made for end of life medical care.
- 4. In the event your significant other has been diagnosed with dementia and does not have a Will or Trust in place, ask your attorney about Right of Survivorship on your jointly held assets.

D. Health Decisions:

- 1. Do Not Resuscitate Order: Whatever your wishes will be in this regard, do BEFORE the time comes when this document will be needed. Obtain form from your M.D. or a hospital.
- 2. Organ Donation: If desired, have this wish on your Driver's License and/or registered with the State.

II. UPON DEATH

- A.. Department of Veterans Affairs - VA Form 21-534EZ
1. This form is applicable to survivors claims for
 - a. Death Pension
 - b. Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
 - c. DIC under 38 U.S.C. 1151
 - d. Increased Survivor Benefits Based on Need for Aid and Attendance or Being Housebound
 - e. Accrued B benefits
 - f. Benefits Based on a Veteran's Seriously Disabled Child
 2. Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents and Survivors - a current edition may be obtained from a local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- B. Retired Military
1. Upon death, Notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Casualty Care Team at 1-800-321-1080. Please have the retiree's Social Security Number and the date of death when you call.
 2. Also notify the following:
 - a. Social Security Administration: 800-772-1213
 - b. Dept. of Veterans Affairs - 800-827-1000 for military retirees receiving disability compensation
 - c. VA at 800-669-8477 if retiree enrolled in VA sponsored life insurance policy; i.e., National Service Life Insurance
 - d. Office of Service member's Group Life Insurance at 800-419-1473 for retirees enrolled in Veteran's Group Life Insurance.
- C. Additional Notifications for Military and Non-Military :
1. Inform all financial institutions of death; i.e., banks, brokerages, etc.
 2. Social Security Administration: 1-800-772-1213. At the time the certified death certificate is completed, SS may be notified electronically but you may need to do so personally.
 - a. When a death occurs after a check has been deposited, the entire amount will be re-claimed by SS even if almost the whole month is finished. The same is true of Military benefits. It is wise to have these amounts in savings to cover the returned checks.
 3. Office of Personnel Management at 888-767-6738 if deceased was a current or retired federal civilian employee
 4. Life Insurance companies

5. Credit Bureaus:
 - a. Equifax International Services: LLC: Office of Consumer Affairs, P. O. Box 105139, Atlanta GA 30348, 1-888-202-025
 - b.. Experian: P. O. Box 9701, Allen TX 75013, 1-888-397-3742
 - c. Transunion LLC: P. O. Box 2000, Chester PA 19022, 1-877-322-8228

D. Death Certificates:

1. May be furnished by funeral home or may be ordered from the Southern Nevada Health District, 280 South Decatur Boulevard, Las Vegas NV 89107, 702-759-1013 or www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org
2. Some financial institutions may require certified copies. Contact each to find out what is required. There is a cost for certified copies.
 - a. Some mortuaries may supply a small amount but will supply additional copies for a fee. Depending on the number you think you will need, it is easiest to pay the mortuary for additional copies. Ten copies total should be sufficient.

DISCLAIMER

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