



# Survivor Outreach Services

## SOS Support Coordinator Information

Name:

Phone:

Email:

### Child Turning 18

*This is for informational purposes only and is not intended to imply endorsement by the Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserves, or the Survivor Outreach Services Program of benefit, organization, corporation, or product. Information in this packet is subject to change without notice. Please contact the entity for the most up to date information.*

As your Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Support Coordinator, my purpose is to demonstrate the Army's commitment to you as a member of the Army Family and honor your loved one's service by assisting you in whatever way possible. This may include helping you understand and access benefits and entitlements, connect with others who have suffered a loss, obtain counseling, or assist with any other issues that result from the loss of your loved one. The program will assist you with all entitled benefits and will help you to remain connected with the Army Family.

As you approach the age of 18, there are some benefit changes that will occur over the next few years. Since all situations and circumstances are unique and each agency has their own eligibility requirements we have included the contact information for each agency. Our goal is to make you aware of possible changes and provide you with the tools for a seamless transition through these milestones.

#### **Included in this packet:**

VA Education Benefits information

Survivor Benefit Plan

Changes and requirements with the Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefit

This is an informational packet to ensure that you are well informed of all benefit milestones that you might face. All of the information included is a general overview of benefits and milestones as well as contact information for the Subject Matter Experts that will be able to assist you with each milestone; eligibility for each benefit is specific to the individual's situation. Please contact me if you have any questions or if you would like for me to assist you with any of the milestones.



# Child Turning 18 Veterans Affairs Education Benefits

## **THE MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIP (FRY SCHOLARSHIP)**

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Fry\\_scholarship.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Fry_scholarship.asp)

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) provides Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children and surviving Spouses of Service Members who died in the line of duty while on Active Duty after September 10, 2001. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level.

Children are eligible as of their 18th birthday (unless they have already graduated high school). A child may be married or over 23 and still be eligible. If they became eligible before January 1, 2013 their eligibility ends on their 33rd birthday. The age limitation is removed if the child became eligible on or after January 1, 2013.

Effective August 1, 2018, recipients of the Fry Scholarship may also be eligible for additional support through the Yellow Ribbon Program if attending a participating school. You can find out if your school participates in this program at: <https://www.va.gov/education/yellow-ribbon-participating-schools/>

## **THE SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (DEA) PROGRAM**

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/DEA.asp>

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who died from a service-connected injury or illness or of Service Members who died while on active duty, in the line of duty.

You may be eligible for more than one of these programs. In most situations, you will be required to make an irrevocable election between the DEA program and Fry Scholarship when you apply. Beneficiaries are not able to use the same qualifying event for more than one benefit unless you are a child of a Service Member that died in the line of duty prior to August 1, 2011.

A child of a parent who died prior to August 1, 2011 may still be eligible for both benefits but he/she may only use one program at a time and combined benefits are capped at a total of 81 months of full-time training. In this situation the two benefit programs cannot be used concurrently.



## Child Turning 18 Veterans Affairs Education Benefits

### Other Factors to Consider

If you are an eligible child and wish to receive benefits for attending school or job training, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26. In certain instances, it is possible to begin before age 18 and to continue after age 26. Marriage is not a bar to this benefit. If you are in the armed forces, you may not receive this benefit while on active duty. To pursue training after military service, your discharge must not be under dishonorable conditions. VA can extend your period of eligibility by the number of months and days equal to the time spent on active duty. This extension cannot generally go beyond 31st birthday, there are some exceptions.

If you are over the age of 18 and currently receiving the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), these payments will stop once you start to receive VA education benefits such as the Fry Scholarship.

GI Bill Comparison Tool :

<https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool>

Fry Scholarship:

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Fry\\_scholarship.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Fry_scholarship.asp)

DEA:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/DEA.asp>

VA Education Hotline for Survivors:

1-888-442-4551, Option 5



## Child Turning 18 Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) \*For Child-Only SBP

Child SBP Annuitants must submit verification of eligibility to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), each year once he or she turns 14.

Child annuitants **over 14 years of age** are required to verify annually they are not married, using the Certificate of Eligibility (COE). If under the age of majority, the legal representative must submit the verification.

DFAS will mail a COE approximately 60 days prior to the annuitant's birthday. Please return the completed, signed COE by the **first day of the month** of the annuitant's birthday.

Requirements for Child SBP Annuitants under the age of 18:

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/manage/#ChildUnder18>

Child Annuitants between the ages of 18 and 22 must submit the DD Form 2788 School Certification

Between the ages of 18 and 22, and still enrolled in school, DD Form 2788 Child Annuitant School Certification is required annually.

Requirements for Child SBP Annuitants between the ages of 18 and 22:

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/manage/#StudentChild>

To prevent a delay in receiving SBP annuity payments, COMPLETE, SIGN and RETURN the DD Form 2788 each year to DFAS at the following address:

**Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retired Pay  
8899 E. 56<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300**

or go to the DFAS webpage to use the DD Form 2788 Wizard and upload the form online. <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/School-Certifications/>



## Child Turning 18 Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax-free monetary benefit that is managed by Veterans Affairs (VA). If a child is receiving the DIC annuity, the benefit will end when the child turns 18 unless specific criteria are met

- **all of these must be true:**

- You aren't married
- You aren't included on the surviving spouse's compensation
- You're under the age of 18 (or under the age of 23 if attending school)

It is important to note that if you are attending school and receiving Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA), you are not eligible to receive DIC.

Veterans Affairs DIC

<https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/>

Veterans Affairs Benefits Hotline

**800-827-1000**

Veterans Affairs Office of Survivors

[officeofsurvivors@va.gov](mailto:officeofsurvivors@va.gov)



## Child Turning 18

It is important to review all benefits prior to a child turning 18 and plan for changes in monetary benefits. It is also important to continue to monitor your bank accounts after a child has turned 18 to ensure that you are both receiving the correct benefits to which you are entitled and that you are not receiving any additional benefits in error.

If you do find that the amounts deposited to your bank account are incorrect, please contact either the agency administering the benefit or your Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator as soon as possible.

\*Note that if an agency deposits funds in error, they may collect those funds from the account holder and create a debt. Regular review of accounts can help you avoid or minimize the impact if this occurs.