#### Department of Veterans Affairs M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii

**Veterans Benefits Administration August 31, 2015**

**Washington, DC 20420**

#### Transmittal Sheet

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| Changes Included in This Revision | The table below describes the changes included in this revision of Veterans Benefits Manual M21-1, Part III, “General Claims Process,” Subpart iii, “General Development and Dependency Issues.”***Note***: Minor changes were also made to update incorrect references.  |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To remove the requirement that administrative decisions addressing the inference of marriage require three signatures. (According to M21-1, Part IV, Subpart iii, Chapter 3, Section D, Topic 2, Block i (IV.iii.3.D.2.i), only two signatures are required.) | III.iii.5.A.3.c |
| To add a description of another situation that requires a Regional Counsel opinion. | III.iii.5.A.3.d |
| To clarify that when a beneficiary reports a change in the status of a dependent that will result in removal of the dependent from the beneficiary’s award, the beneficiary must provide VA with * the first name of the dependent, and
* the date and place of the event that resulted in the change in the dependent’s status.
 | III.iii.5.A.4.d |
| To add a block that instructs regional offices (ROs) to accept VA Form 21-686c, *Declaration of Status of Dependents*, and VA Form 21-674, *Request for Approval of School Attendance*, that call center employees complete, sign, and route to ROs for processing.  | III.iii.5.A.4.g |

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| Rescissions | None |

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| Authority | By Direction of the Under Secretary for Benefits |

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| Signature | Thomas J. Murphy, DirectorCompensation Service |

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