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

**Veterans Benefits Administration August 31, 2015**

**Washington, DC 20420**

#### Transmittal Sheet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rescissions | None |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature | Thomas J. Murphy, Director  Compensation Service |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Distribution | LOCAL REPRODUCTION AUTHORIZED |