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

**Veterans Benefits Administration July 20, 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.”  ***Notes***: Minor editorial changes have also been made to   * update incorrect or obsolete references * remove references to specific claims-processing systems, where doing so does not affect the clarity of the instructions or information provided * renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1 * reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks, where necessary, to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic * clarify block labels and/or block text, and * bring the document into conformance with M21-1 standards. |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To add a block stating that the evidence described in Topic 1 is required only if one or more of the conditions described under 38 CFR 3.204(a)(2) exist. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, Chapter 5, Section G, Topic 1, Block a (III.iii.5.G.1.a) |
| To add a block that discusses the use of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) tests to establish paternity. | III.iii.5.G.1.e |
| To add information (in Step 1) regarding the establishment of a diary in the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). | III.iii.5.G.4.f |
| To provide an example of “parents in the same parental line.” | III.iii.5.G.5.d |
| To add a block that discusses the birth of a child during the marriage of two females. | III.iii.5.G.6.b |
| To rewrite the instructions pertaining to the evidence/information required to establish a stepchild as the child of a Veteran. (These instructions have changed now that claimants must submit a prescribed form in order to add a child to his/her award.) | III.iii.5.G.6.e |
| To update the instructions for documenting attempts to contact a beneficiary by telephone. | III.iii.5.G.6.i |

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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, Director  Compensation Service |

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