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

**Veterans Benefits Administration July 11, 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 the old M21-1 * update *VA Form 21-509, Statement of Dependency of Parent(s)* to *VA Form 21P-509, Statement of Dependency of Parent(s)* * update obsolete terminology, where appropriate * renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1 * update section and topic titles to more accurately reflect their content * 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 remove insutructions for using Modern Awards Processing Development (MAP-D) and a reference to MAP-D to allow procedures to remain system neutral. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart iii, Chapter 5, Section J, Topic 1, Block e  (III.iii.5.J.1.e) |
| To add guidance on telephone development and documenting successful attempts on *VA Form 27-0820, Report of General Information*. | III.iii.5.J.1.f |
| To redefine that proof of continued dependency is required if the statement of dependency is over a year old. | III.iii.5.J.5.a |
| To update the procedures for obtaining proof of continued dependency to include information on the use of tracking end products (EPs) and establishing a 30 day control time for return of the *VA Form 21P-509*, *Statement of Dependency of Parent(s)*. | III.iii.5.J.5.b |
| * To add that diary reason code 22 is titled “*Verify Income or Dependency*.” * To add a reference to see the *Share User Guide* to obtain additional information for establishing a diary. | III.iii.5.J.6.b |
| To change the suspense period for receipt of evidence from 60 days to 30 days based on guidance in III.iii.1.B.2.B specifying a claimant has 30 days to submit evidence. | III.iii.5.J.6.d |
| * To remove outdated instructions about reason codes. * To add a reference to see the *VETSNET Awards User Guide* and *Veteran Benefits Management System (VBMS)-Awards User Guide* to obtain additional information on reducing or terminating an award. | III.iii.5.J.7.c |
| To reformat the procedures contained within this block to make them easier to follow and understand. | III.iii.5.J.7.d |

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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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