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

**Veterans Benefits Administration September 23, 2014**

**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 M21-1MR, Part III, “General Claims Process,” Subpart iii, “General Development and Dependency Issues.”  ***Notes***:   * Minor editorial changes have also been made to * update the term “veteran” to “Veteran” * update the term “death pension” to “survivors pension” * update obsolete terminology, where appropriate * clarify block labels and/or block text, and * bring the documents into conformance with M21-1MR standards. |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation | Page(s) |
| To direct the calculation of years of marriage to begin on the date of marriage not the date the marriage was first recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) per the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Letter 20-14-08, *Administration of Same-Sex Spousal Benefits*. | M21-1MR, Part III, Subpart iii, Chapter 5, Section E, Topic 21, Block b  (III.iii.5.E.21.b) | 5-E-5 |
| To insert the same information as above. | III.iii.5.E.22.a | 5-E-7 |
| To insert the same information as above. | III.iii.5.E.23.b | 5-E-9 |
| To insert the same information as above. | III.iii.5.E.23.c | 5-E-10 |
| To replace “husband and wife” with “spouses.” | III.iii.5.E.25.a | 5-E-13 |
| * To direct the calculation of years of marriage to begin on the date of marriage not the date the marriage was first recognized by VA per VBA Letter 20-14-08. * To ensure that when a deemed valid marriage determination of a same-sex marriage is required the regional office seeks assistance from the Regional Counsel per VBA Letter 20-14-08. | III.iii.5.E.26.b | 5-E-18 |

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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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