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

**Veterans Benefits Administration August 21, 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 incorrect or obsolete hyperlink references
* update obsolete terminology, where appropriate
* reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks, where necessary, to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic
* update section and topic titles to more accurately reflect their content
* 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 remove instructions to use Modern Award Processing – Development (MAP-D) for written development.
* To encourage telephone development before written development.
 | M21-1MR, Part III, Subpart iii, Chapter 5, Section F, Topic 31, Block b (III.iii.5.F.31.b)  | 5-F-4 |
| * To replace “at least month and year” with “month, day, and year.”
* To add the requirement that claimants provide the city and State of birth, or city and country for foreign births.
* To explain that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does not require a claimant to provide the State in which a birth took place if the city of birth, such as Chicago, is well-known.
 | III.iii.5.F.32.a | 5-F-7 |
| To remove instructions to use MAP-D for written development as they are outdated and don’t fit with the other content. | III.iii.5.F.33.a | 5-F-9 |
| To split up the information in (old) III.iii.5.F.35.c into three separate blocks. | III.iii.5.F.35.a, c, and d | 5-F-16, 5-F-17, and5-F-18 |

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Transmittal Sheet, Continued

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| Changes Included in This Revision (continued) |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation | Page(s) |
| * To remove the requirement that decision notices contain the names of dependents for which VA is paying additional benefits to a Veteran.
* To note an exception to the policy that *VA Form 21-686c*, *Declaration of Status of Dependents*, be attached to decision notices when a Veteran is granted a combined disability evaluation of at least 30 percent.
* To add instructions to attempt to contact a Veteran by telephone to obtain information required to add a dependent to the Veteran’s award before sending a written request.
 | III.iii.5.F.35.a | 5-F-16 |
| To add a block that discusses end product (EP) control when developing for evidence/information required to add a dependent to a Veteran’s award. | III.iii.5.F.35.b | 5-F-17 |
| To consolidate the information in (old) III.iii.5.F.35.a with information from (old) III.iii.5.F.35.c regarding the effective date for adding a dependent to a Veteran’s award. | III.iii.5.F.35.c | 5-F-17 |
| To add an explanation regarding the regulatory requirement that VA reduce or terminate benefits effective the last day of the month of entitlement. | III.iii.5.F.36.b | 5-F-21 |
| To add a block and a note containing instructions for selecting an effective date when a beneficiary notifies VA of the loss of a dependent but does not provide the date of the event that resulted in the loss. | III.iii.5.F.36.e | 5-F-23 |
| * To add a block containing information that is unique to changes in the status of children in receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).
* To relocate a sentence from III.iii.5.F.36.b that contains instructions applicable to awards of DIC only.
 | III.iii.5.F.36.f | 5-F-23 |
| To delete III.iii.5.F.33.a because it contains information that already exists in III.iii.5.F.32.a. | --- | --- |
| To delete (old) III.iii.5.F.35.b because it now duplicates information that exists in III.iii.5.F.35.c. | --- | --- |
| To delete (old) III.iii.5.F.35.h because the Benefits Delivery Network (BDN) is no longer used to process compensation or pension awards. | --- | --- |
| To delete (old) III.iii.5.F.36.d because BDN is no longer used to process compensation or pension awards. | --- | --- |

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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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