**Table of Contents**

**Chapter 15 – ARH Insurance (38 U.S.C. 1922(b))**

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| --- | --- |
| **Subsection** | **Name** |
| 15.01 | General |
| 15.02 | Requirements |
| 15.03 | Amount of Insurance |
| 15.04 | Effective Date |
| 15.05 | Beneficiary and Option Selection |
| 15.06 | Issuance |

**15.01 GENERAL (38 U.S.C. 1922(B))**

Any person who, on or after April 25, 1951, was otherwise qualified for insurance under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 1922(a), but who did not apply for such insurance and who is shown by evidence satisfactory to the Administrator:

1. To have been mentally incompetent from a service-connected disability:

1. At the time of release from active service, or
2. During any part of the 2-year period from the date the service connection of a disability is first determined by the VA, or
3. After release from active service but is not rated service-connected disabled by the VA until after death; and
4. To have remained continuously so mentally incompetent until date of death; and
5. To have died before the appointment of a guardian, or within 2 years after the appointment of a guardian; shall be deemed to have applied for and to have been granted such insurance as of the date of death.

**NOTE**: SRH insurance provided under 38 U.S.C. 1922A cannot be issued to any recipient of ARH insurance. See 38 CFR 8.34

**15.02 REQUIREMENTS**

1. Submission of a Claim for ARH Insurance Benefits-The claim must be submitted to VA within 2 years after the date of death of the Veteran. Persons shown to be mentally or legally incompetent at the time the right to submit the claim for the insurance benefits expires may submit the claim within 1 year after the removal of such disability. The claim must be submitted by the person who is the legal beneficiary of the Veteran.
2. Premium-No payment of premium required.
3. Date Used for Proof of Good Health-The date to be used for determining whether the Veteran was insurable according to the standards of good health established by VA, except for the service-connected disability, shall be the date of release from active service or the date the Veteran became mentally incompetent, whichever is later.

**15.03 AMOUNT OF INSURANCE**

ARH will be granted in an amount which, together with any other National Service Life Insurance in force (excluding paid-up additions) on the day of death of the Veteran, shall aggregate $10,000. Beneficiaries granted ARH are not eligible for additional insurance through Supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (SRH). See 38 CFR 8.34.

**15.04 EFFECTIVE DATE**

The effective date of ARH insurance is the date of death of the veteran.

**15.05 BENEFICIARY AND OPTION SELECTION**

1. Payment of ARH insurance shall be made only to the following beneficiaries in the order named:
2. To the surviving spouse of the insured, if living and while not remarried;
3. If no surviving spouse entitled thereto, to the child or children of the insured, if living, in equal shares;
4. If no surviving spouse or child entitled thereto, to the parent or parents of the insured who last bore that relationship, if living, in equal shares.
5. Relationship of the applicant shall be proved as of the date of death of the insured by evidence satisfactory to VA.
6. The beneficiary(ies) are paid only through a lump sum payment.

**15.06 ISSUANCE**

The Rating Activity will make the decision as to whether gratuitous insurance (ARH) will be granted. The Death Claims Division will assign the (ARH) policy number.

These actions need to be taken when ARH insurance is granted:

1. Live Claims
2. The Insurance Specialist will refer all applications of deceased veterans to a Senior Veterans Claims Examiner (SVCE) in the Death Claims Division for ARH review.
3. The Insurance Specialist will release a RH Disapproval letter to the applicant and send to Death Claims.

**NOTE**: An application may be routed directly to Death Claims instead of through Live Claims. However, in cases where Live Claims receives the application first, this first step should be taken.

1. Death Claims
2. The SVCE will review documentation and VA systems to determine if ARH Insurance requirements are met.
3. If requirements are met all documents will be scanned into VA systems.

1. The SVCE will email (2105 memo) the VSC mailbox (VAVBAPHI/RO/ADJ) when all claim related material has been uploaded, and provide relevant information.

**NOTE**: If all requirements are met under (1) AND VA systems show that the deceased Veteran was rated incompetent from a service-connected disability prior to death, b(3) - c(2) does not need to occur. The SVCE should complete the ARH Administrative Review Decision and proceed to d.

1. The SVCE will notify the applicant their ARH inquiry is being reviewed. If disapproved, applicant will be notified.
2. Rating Activity
3. The Rating Veterans Service Representative (RVSR) making the final decision regarding incompetency and entitlement to ARH Insurance.
4. RVSR notifies SVCE from Death Claims of their decisions.
5. Death Claims - Post-VSC Decision
6. SVCE will assign an ARH Insurance number. The policy numbers started with ARH 1001.
7. SVCE refers case to Lead Claims Adjustment Technician (LCAT) to build the policy.
8. SVCE will authorize payment to applicant.