



Once the funeral is over, here are some things you need to think about and complete within the first few months...

Note: Some items might not be applicable in all cases

- Contact banks and cancel credit cards.
- Renew your family military ID's at the nearest military installation.
- Choose SBP annuity payment and submit necessary paperwork.
- Contact your local Veterans Affairs office to start your claim process for DIC compensation. I recommend making an appointment to go in person and meet with a VA representative to start the process.
- Contact your local Social Security to start your claim process for benefit payments. The initial claim process can be done over the phone but recommended to provide the original documentation in person if possible.
- Call Tricare in the region you reside to notify them of your status. You may change your coverage plan since this is a qualifying life event. This is important since the only other time to change your plan is during annual open enrollment.
- Call Tricare Dental. Discuss the coverage and rate changes since they are different for surviving spouse and children.
- Contact all insurance companies as needed (auto, home, life, other). Accounts will need to be either updated or closed.
- File income tax return for the year in which your loved one died.



Here are some additional administrative tasks that you will need to think about as the mandatory Government items are complete. Take your time, as some of these items don't have a timeline but will be beneficial to get done within the first year.

- Contact a free financial counseling service listed on this site for advice on benefits.
 - Create a budget sheet to start tracking income and expenses.
- Complete necessary paperwork to convert or rollover Thrift Savings Plan.
- Complete necessary paperwork for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.
- Choose whether to convert policy for Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.
 - 120 days from the date of the service member's death to convert.
- Obtain a will for yourself.
- Obtain an individual life insurance policy if you choose not to convert FSGLI.
- Cancel cell phone service provider for your loved one.
- Inform credit reporting agencies.