

# ARE YOU THE SAME-SEX SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A DECEASED VETERAN?

## YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS!



**Are you the survivor of a deceased veteran?**

The VA has changed the way it awards benefits for same-sex and LGBTQ+ survivors of lost veterans. Now, the spouses, children, or parents of those who served in the military have new ways to qualify for **Disability and Indemnity Compensation**.



**Did the veteran...**

- Die in service, whether statewide or overseas?
- Have a service-connected illness or injury that contributed to their cause of death?
- Die while eligible or having received VA disability benefits rated as totally disabling (100% rating or the equivalent)?



**Were you and the veteran married for at least 1 year, married within 15 years of their discharge, or did you have a child together?**

Even if your spouse died before your marriage was officially recognized by law, **marriage-like** relationships may still allow you to qualify. Marriage-like relationships may be determined by the existence of a commitment ceremony, religious rites, or other partnership documentation.

**Don't sacrifice the benefits your partner earned.** If you meet any of these qualifications, or are unsure if you meet them, we can help!

The **Veterans Legal Clinic at Harvard Law's Legal Services Center** is committed to assisting LGBTQ+ survivors in any way they can. If you have questions about the VA's new policy or would like to apply for legal assistance, contact the client intake line at:



**617 • 390 • 2525**



**VeteransLegalClinic@law.harvard.edu**