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Coast Guard Retiree Council Northwest

**Guide for surviving
Coast Guardsmen, spouses, & other family members**

When a Coast Guardsman, spouse or other dependent family member dies:

1. Notify family members.
2. Document all of your activities! – Keep a file of copies of every piece of paper you submit to anyone. Maintain a log of every person you talk to, in person or on the telephone, include names, dates, times, and a summary of the discussion.
3. Notify the USCG Personnel Service Center (USCG PSC) at 1 800 772 8724.
Be sure to have the decedent's Social Security number available at the time of the call.
4. Notify local authorities as appropriate.
5. Make funeral or other service arrangements. Seek the assistance of other family members and friends.
6. Notify the Social Security Administration at 1 800 772 1213, or contact your nearest local office listed in your telephone directory, if the decedent, the survivor, or other dependent family member, is receiving an annuity or other payment from Social Security. Be sure to have the decedent's Social Security number available at the time of the call.
7. Notify friends and seek their assistance as appropriate.
8. Notify all financial institutions – banks, investment agents, etc.
9. Notify all insurance companies – life, automobile, home, etc.
10. Order certified copies (at least 10) of the death certificate from the records agency of the jurisdiction in which death occurred. You should obtain one for your file plus one for each organization you have notified plus additional copies for unanticipated requests. When sending a death certificate ask that it be returned to you.

What's Next?

The USCG PSC will send you a packet of forms to complete. Do so as soon as possible. Your continued receipt of financial benefits depends on timely submission of these documents. Do not hesitate to contact the USCG PSC for assistance. You can also seek assistance from the nearest Coast Guard activity, Military/Naval Retired Services Offices, or the Coast Guard Retiree Council Northwest. Also send a copy of the Social Security Administration Notice of Award to the USCG PSC to show the beginning date of the Social Security annuity for the decedent (if this has not been done previously). Without this information the USCG PSC will calculate the Survivor's Benefit Social Security Offset based

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on the retiree's initial receipt of the Social Security annuity at age 65. This could result in a lower Coast Guard survivor's benefit, assuming the retiree had participated in the Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP).

The Social Security Administration will require special information if the spouse of a retiree decedent is under age 65 and the retiree had been receiving a Social Security annuity. Complete the form "Certificate of Election for Reduced Widow Benefits."

Seek the assistance of an attorney if matters so dictate. Many Armed Forces related and other organizations have attorney referral services.

Stay informed about pertinent issues. e.g., SBP, Social Security, medical services, etc.

Where can I get help?

USCG Personnel Service Center

1 800 772 8724

Coast Guard Integrated Support Command, Seattle

Administrative Officer

1 206 217 6400

Coast Guard Retiree Council Northwest

1 206 217 6188

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

1 800 827 1000 (nationwide)

American Legion (AL)

1 206 220 6238

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

1 816 756 3390

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

1 202 554 3501

USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)

1 703 941 0395

USCG CWO & WO Association (CWO & WOA)

1 202 554 7753

Retired Services Offices

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NAS Whidbey Island, WA
1 360 257 8054

Naval Base, Bangor, WA
1 360 396 4115

Naval Support Complex
(Smokey Point, Marysville)
1 425 304 3775

Fleer & Family Information Center (FFIC)
Bremerton, WA
1 360 476 5113

Fort Lewis, WA
1 253 967 5913

McChord AFB, WA
1 253 984 5234

Fairchild AFB, WA
1 509 247 5359

Mountain Home AFB, ID
1 208 828 4878

Malmstrom AFB, MT
1 406 731 4142

Noncommissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
1 800 662 2620

Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
1 800 372 1924

American Council of Life Insurance (ACLI)
1 800 942 4242

What should I do beforehand?

Keep USCG Personnel Service Center Informed of Your Residence & Mailing Addresses

Assemble a file that will provide all the information survivors may need:

- DD214s
(Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) for all separations
- Retirement orders
- Birth certificates for all principals & beneficiaries
 - Marriage certificates
 - Divorce documents
 - Will
 - Power of Attorney

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- Healthcare Power of Attorney
 - Living Will
or
Directive to Physicians
 - Insurance policies
 - Most recent USCG Retiree/ Annuitant Statement of Monthly Income (CGPPC 5209)
 - Other pertinent documents
e.g., VA Certificate of Eligibility
 - Social Security Administration Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance Notice of Award
 - Social Security Numbers for all principals & beneficiaries
 - Copies of recent Federal & State income tax returns
 - A list of all financial & other accounts including account & telephone numbers
 - Establish an account with sufficient funds to cover expenditures for three months
 - A list of relatives & friends to be notified
 - Information regarding exposure to hazardous materials while in government service, e.g., duty in 255' cutters, marine inspection services
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Organizations that provide useful guides for coping with the loss of a loved one

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
1 800 424 3410

United Services Automobile Association (USAA)
1 800 531 0515
(have your membership number ready)

The Military Officers Association of America (MOOA)
1 800 234 6662

Reserve Officers Association (ROA)
1 800 809 9448

Retired Military Almanac
(Uniformed Services Almanac, Inc.)
1 888 872 9698

Plus many of the organizations noted under
"Where can I get help?"

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Most of these and other pertinent organizations maintain Web sites. USE THEM! If you don't have Internet access go to your local library

Thirteenth District national Cemeteries that accept new interments:

Tahoma, Kent, WA: 425 413 9614

Eagle Point, OR: 541 826 2511

Willamette, Portland, OR: 503 272 5250

If you have recommendations or comments send them to:

Commanding Officer
USCG Integrated Support Command
Attn: Work Life (Retiree Council)
1519 Alaskan Way South
Seattle, WA 98134
206 217 6188

Notification of next of kin and others

Federal and State laws limit access to private/personal information under many different circumstances. Therefore it is imperative in emergency situations for you have information *on your person* that will allow attending personnel to contact and/or release information to your next of kin and others you designate.

You must sign the list.

A sample list follows:

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Next of Kin of:

CWO-4 Albert J. Ewing USCG (retired)

These persons are to be notified promptly should any untoward event make it impractical for me to do so.

Further anyone or all of these persons are to be given all information pertinent to my condition & status upon their oral or written request.

ALBERT J. EWING

Mrs. Susan M. Ewing
1401 92nd Avenue NE
Bellevue, Washington 98004
425 555 1212

Mrs. Catharine E. Jones
16801 Park Avenue South
Spanaway, Washington 98387
253 555 2212

Miss Allison G. Ewing
5406 236 Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98053
425 555 2312

Mr. Ernest S. Ewing
PO Box 324
Goldbar, WA 98251
(100 Index Avenue
Index, WA 98256)
360 555 3212

Mr. Charles S. Ewing
2561 NW Garden Place
Corvallis, OR 97330
541 555 4212

The list should be cut to size to fit in your wallet.

For easy access by emergency personnel the list should be next to your drivers license.