



## Surviving Spouse Options Fact Sheet

### Issue:

Outline options for surviving spouses regarding maintaining or forfeiting the Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) VetBiz Vendor Information Pages (VIP) verification status in the event of death of a Veteran owner.

### Discussion:

The surviving spouse of Veteran small business owner may choose to maintain or forfeit their small businesses verification status. Eligible surviving spouses may maintain CVE VetBiz VIP verification, only under the following circumstances:

1. The death of the Veteran causes Veteran ownership to be less than 51 percent.
2. The person claiming to be a surviving spouse must be identified as such by the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration.
3. The person claiming to be a surviving spouse must be listed as a surviving spouse in the Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS) (see 38 CFR § 74.1).

Additional requirements for small businesses with Service-Disabled status include:

1. The Veteran held a 100 percent service-connected disability or died

as a direct result of a service-connected disability.

The surviving spouse must contact the CVE Help Desk via Email [vip@va.gov](mailto:vip@va.gov), stating their intent to maintain VetBiz VIP verification status. Supporting documentation showing surviving spouse status and transfer of ownership from the deceased Veteran must be attached to the Email.

Note to definition of surviving spouse: For program eligibility purposes, the surviving spouse has the same rights and entitlements as the service-disabled Veteran who transferred ownership upon his or her death. Under these circumstances the surviving spouse obtains the 'role' of the deceased Veteran for the purpose of maintaining the verification status of the small business.

The surviving spouse may maintain this status from the period beginning on the date on which the Veteran dies and ending on the earliest of the following dates:

1. The date on which the surviving spouse remarries;
2. The date on which the surviving spouse relinquishes an ownership interest in the small business concern;
3. The date that is 10 years after the date of the Veteran's death; or
4. The date on which the business concern is no longer small under

federal small business size standards.

Surviving spouses who no longer wish to maintain the VetBiz Verification must submit their election in writing to the CVE Help Desk along with supporting documentation showing surviving spouse status and transfer of ownership from the deceased veteran.

To get more information about verification application resources, please visit [Verification Assistance](#).

Visit <http://www.va.gov/osdbu> for more information about CVE and the Verification Process.

**The Center for Verification and Evaluation**

866-584-2344  
Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST)

Status Update:  
[verificationfollowup@va.gov](mailto:verificationfollowup@va.gov)

Profile Questions:  
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