

# Casualty info Paper

## What is a casualty?

Casualty is an inclusive category. A casualty can be defined as any person who is lost to an organization by reason of having been declared beleaguered (member of an organized element that has been surrounded by a hostile force to prevent escape of its members), besieged (member of an organized element that has been surrounded by a hostile force for compelling it to surrender), captured (seized as the result of action of an unfriendly military or paramilitary force in a foreign country), deceased, detained (prevented from proceeding or is restrained in custody for alleged violation of international law or other reason claimed by the government or group under which the person is being held), DUSTWUN (Duty Status - Whereabouts Unknown); transitory casualty status, applicable only to military personnel, that is used when the responsible commander suspects the member may be a casualty whose absence is involuntary, but does not feel sufficient evidence currently exists to make a definite determination of missing or deceased), injured, ill, interned (definitely known to have been taken into custody of a nonbelligerent foreign power as the result of and for reasons arising out of any armed conflict in which the armed forces of the United States are engaged), missing (not present at his or her duty location due to apparent involuntary reasons and whose location is unknown), missing in action (a hostile casualty, other than the victim of a terrorist activity, who is not present at his or her duty location due to apparent involuntary reasons and whose location is unknown) or wounded. As you can see, this definition encompasses a lot more than what is traditionally thought of as a casualty.

- Casualty Status - Term used to classify a casualty for reporting purposes. There are seven casualty statuses:
  1. Deceased - A casualty status applicable to a person who is either known to have died, determined to have died on the basis of conclusive evidence, or declared to be dead on the basis of a presumptive finding of death. The recovery of remains is not a prerequisite to determining or declaring a person deceased.
  2. Very Seriously Ill or Injured (VSI) - The casualty status of a person whose illness is classified by medical authorities to be of such severity that life is imminently endangered. (Joint Pub 1-02)
  3. Seriously Ill or Injured (SI) - The casualty status of a person whose illness or injury is classified by medical authorities to be of such severity that there is cause for immediate concern, but there is no imminent danger to life. (Joint Pub 1-02)
  4. Incapacitating Illness or Injury (III) - The casualty status of a person whose illness or injury requires hospitalization, but medical authority does not classify as very seriously ill or injured or seriously ill or injured and the illness or injury makes the person physically or mentally unable to communicate with the next of kin. Also called III. (Joint Pub 1-02)
  5. Not Seriously Injured (NSI) - The casualty status of a person whose injury or illness may or may not require hospitalization; medical authority does not classify as very seriously injured (VSI), seriously injured (SI), or incapacitating illness or injury (III); and the person can communicate with the Next of Kin (NOK). (Joint Pub 1-02)
- What is the process for notifying families of casualties?
- In the event of a Soldier injury or illness, only primary next of kin will be notified and may be notified telephonically. All notified families will have ready access to information, as it becomes available. In all death and missing cases, the Primary and Secondary Next of Kin (PNOK) (SNOK) and any other person listed on the DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data), will be notified. The notification will be made as a matter of highest priority, taking precedence over all other responsibilities the notifier has. Whenever possible, the notifier's grade is equal to or higher than the grade of the casualty. When the PNOK is also a Soldier, the notifier's grade will be equal to or higher than the grade of the PNOK. Personal notification will generally be made between 0600 and 2200 hours local time. The PNOK is always notified first. If the PNOK cannot be located, the Army Casualty & Memorial Affairs Operations Center (CMAOD) will determine when to notify the SNOK.

## How is the Primary Next Of Kin (PNOK) determined?

The person most closely related to the casualty is considered the PNOK for notification and assistance purposes. This is normally the spouse for married persons and the parents for unmarried Soldiers/individuals. The precedence of NOK with equal relationships to the casualty is governed by seniority (age). Equal relationship situations include divorced parents, children and siblings. Minor children's rights are exercised by their parents or legal guardian. The adult NOK is usually the first person highest in the line of succession who has reached the age of eighteen. Even if a minor, the spouse is always considered the PNOK. The following order of precedence is used to identify the PNOK:

1. Spouse
2. Natural, adopted, step and illegitimate children
3. Parents
4. Persons standing in loco parentis
5. Persons granted legal custody of the individual by a court decree of statutory provision
6. Brothers or sisters, to include half-blood and those acquired through adoption
7. Grandparents
8. Other relatives in order of relationship to the individual according to civil laws
9. If no other persons are available, the secretary of the military department may be deemed to act on behalf of the individual Secondary next of kin (SNOK) is any other next of kin other than the PNOK.

## Does the Army only notify Next Of Kin (NOK) of active duty Soldiers?

No. The Army will notify NOK if any of the following become casualties:

- Army members on active duty. The term active duty includes reserve members in an active guard/reserve status.
- Army reserve members who die while en route to or from or while participating in any scheduled training activity.
- National Guard members who die while en route to or from or while participating in any scheduled training activity.
- Army retirees
- Soldiers released from active duty within 120 days.
- DA civilian employees OCONUS.
- DA civilians in a CONUS TDY status.
- DA dependents OCONUS.
- What services are available for family members whose loved ones have been killed?
- The Army casualty assistance program assists the Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) during the very emotionally trying and difficult time following a casualty incident, to eliminate delays in settling claims, to assist the PNOK in applying for survivor benefits and to resolve other personnel-related matters. Families whose loved one has been killed or missing will be provided a Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) by the Army Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operations Center (CMAOD). Services provided by the CAO include, but are not limited to, information and assistance concerning the return of remains and belongings, funeral/memorial services, filing for benefits and entitlements, and relocation of military family members.

When reporting the death of an active duty service member to the Department of the Army, which includes full-time Active Guard Reserve personnel (AGR), U. S. Army Reserve (USAR) personnel traveling directly en route to or from or participating in Annual Training (AT), Active Duty Training (ADT), Initial Active Duty Training (IADT), Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW), Special Active Duty Training (SADT) or Inactive Duty Training (IDT) and Army National Guard (ARNG) personnel traveling directly en route to or from or participating in AT, ADT, Full Time National Guard Duty (FTNGD), Temporary Tour of Active Duty (TTAD), IADT or IDT, please have the following information available concerning the member:

- Full name
- Social security number
- Rank
- Unit
- Circumstances surrounding the death
- Next of Kin (NOK) information

**Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division anytime by calling 1-800-626-3317. Caller will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center.**

The local Casualty Assistance Center will contact the person who reported the death without delay to provide immediate assistance to the family.

When reporting the death of a retiree to the Department of the Army, which includes retired Reserve and National Guard personnel in receipt of retired pay, please have the following information available regarding the retiree:

- Full name
- Social security number and/or service number
- Date and Place of Birth
- Retired Rank
- Retirement date
- Disability Rating
- Unit
- Circumstances surrounding the death
- Next of Kin (NOK) information
- Copy of the Statement of Service (DD Form 214)
- Copy of the death certificate

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The local Casualty Assistance Center will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for stoppage of retirement pay and the initiation of the survivor benefits process. Family members may receive assistance on related issues as well.

The death of a veteran should be reported to the Department of the Army if:

- The veteran died within 120 days of separation from active duty
- The NOK would like to request a military honors burial or flag. To do so, please have the following information available regarding the veteran:
  - Full name
  - Social security number and/or service number
  - Date and place of birth
  - Separation Rank
  - Separation Date
  - Disability Rating
  - Circumstances surrounding the death
  - Next of kin information

- Copy of the Statement of Service (DD Form 214)
- Copy of the death certificate

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**SUBJECT:** Stillborn eligibility for Family SGLI.

**PURPOSE:** To provide clarification about the Family Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) eligibility standards for Stillborns.

**BACKGROUND:** In the past, FSGLI claims for stillborns qualified if the child met weight (350 grams) or gestation (20+ weeks). The Office of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (OSGLI) has clarified the lawful definition of stillborns in regards to FSGLI to align with Title 38 CFR Part 9 – Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance. Stillborns now only qualify by weight, if weight is given on the fetal death certificate or hospital delivery notes. If neither document provides the weight, only then will gestation be considered for eligibility.

**CAC ACTIONS:** Ensure the Family or Servicemember is properly briefed on the definition of stillborn before filing a claim.

The term *member's stillborn child* means a member's biological child—

1. Whose death occurs before expulsion, extraction, or delivery; and whose—

A. Fetal weight is 350 grams or more; or

B. If fetal weight is unknown, duration in utero is 20 completed weeks of gestation or more, calculated from the date the last normal menstrual period began to the date of expulsion, extraction, or delivery.

2. The term does not include any fetus or child extracted for purposes of an abortion.

**CMAOD ACTIONS:** Ensure proper eligibility standards are met. Continue to accept any and all claims filed. If the claim does not qualify, send to OSGLI for a final determination and possible denial letter.

For questions or clarification of this CAC Blast please contact Casualty Support Section - 502-613-9025 or [usarmy.knox.hc.mbx.tagd-CMAOD-csb-casualty@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.hc.mbx.tagd-CMAOD-csb-casualty@mail.mil).

Local Casualty Assistance Centers Contact Info:

Torii Station CAC: Byron Irving, @ [Byron.Irving.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Byron.Irving.civ@mail.mil) ph#315-652-5355/ 080-2702-0770

CMAOD: [Contact via Email](#) ph#1800-325-4988

