

# Links & Resources

Below is contact information for other sites which may be helpful. The blue links are active if this is opened on your computer. You may have to use control+click to open in your browser. Most agencies will require some or all of the documents listed, and other documents may be required. Be sure to ask when you call for information or for an appointment.

## DOCUMENTS NEEDED:

- Death certificate (original)
- Deceased's Social Security card
- DD-214 (if prior military)
- Marriage certificate (copy is accepted)
- Deceased's birth certificate
- Applicant's birth certificate
- Proof of termination of previous marriages (both parties)
- Minor children's birth certificates or proof of disabled child under 18
- Record of income for preceding years (usually tax returns)
- Proof of VA disability benefits or military retirement pay received
- Funeral receipts

## Social Security Administration

National Toll-Free Number 1-800-772-1213

[Social Security Webpage \(Home Page\)](#)

[Social Security \(Survivor Benefits Page\)](#)

Ocala Social Security Office (877) 626-9911 / 933 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470 (appointment required)

NOTE: For the ladies, if you were married and divorced before, be prepared to provide proof of prior marriage(s) and divorce(s). Some agencies require this to track not only marital status but your name changes from maiden to married, divorced, remarried, with no gaps. Florida issues two forms of the death certificate: the long form (shows cause of death) and the short form (no cause of death shown). Unless you are claiming insurance or something where cause of death may be a factor, most places will accept the short form death certificate. If you and your partner are not legally married, your rights and obligations may be restricted and these may fall to your partner's next of kin. If in doubt about who should or can do what, you may want to consult a family law attorney.

## Defense Finance Accounting Services (DFAS)

For military retirees who were receiving retirement benefits at the time of death.

[DFAS \(Report a Death Page\)](#)

Customer Service: 800-321-1080

## Survivor Benefit Program (SBP)

For military retirees who opted for this program when they retired. Some benefits are offset with VA benefits. Please call VA to discuss these options, or click here for more information: [SBP & VA](#)

## City & County

[Marion County Tax Appraiser](#) 501 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

Phone: (352) 368-8300 Fax: (352) 368-8336

[Marion County Tax Collector](#) Renew drivers license or car tags, pay property taxes online. 503 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida, 34471 Phone: (352) 368-8200

[Click here for information on Florida Tax Exemptions that may be available to you.](#)

[Click here for the application form for Homestead, VA or Widow\(er\) Exemptions.](#)

## Bereavement Counseling

[Monarch Center for Hope & Healing](#) 2895 SE 62nd Street, Ocala, FL 34480  
Phone: (352) 873-7456

[Grief Share Support Groups in Ocala](#) Click for a list of locations

## Veterans Administration (VA)

MyVA411 main information line: 800-698-2411  
National Cemetery Scheduling Office: 800-535-1117  
Headstones and markers: 800-697-6947  
VA benefits hotline: 800-827-1000

[Veterans' Administration \(Home Page\)](#)

[Veterans' Administration \(Survivor Benefits Page\)](#)

[Veterans' Administration \(Burial & Memorials Page\)](#)

Nearest VA cemetery: Florida National Cemetery 6502 SW 102nd Ave. Bushnell, FL 33513-8914  
Main number: 352-793-7740

Sponsor a wreath at any National Cemetery through [Wreaths Across America](#)  
PO Box 249, Columbia Falls, ME 04623. (877) 385-9504

[Marion County Veterans Services](#) *\*Editor's note: this is the easiest and best way to apply for your VA benefits. Appointment required. (See my blog on Veterans benefits for more information)*  
2730 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470 (352) 671-8422

[Veterans Memorial Park](#) 2601 E Fort King St, Ocala, FL 34470 (352) 401-5346

**Medical Alert Systems.** Helpful information about choosing a medical alert system can be found here:

[MedicalAlert.org](#) 601 W. 1st Avenue, Suite 1400 Spokane WA 99201. Phone (800) 354-1327

## Other Resources:

Because I'm inundated with requests to link to resources that are outside the scope of Suddenly One, I don't provide links to these websites. If you need information about a specific topic, [contact me](#) and I'll help you find a resource.

*Being one doesn't have to mean being alone.  
Let's help each other.*