

## §219.34

(b) *Other evidence of a deemed valid marriage.* If preferred evidence of a deemed valid marriage cannot be obtained, the claimant must explain the reason therefor and submit other convincing evidence of the marriage.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3220-0140)

### §219.34 When evidence that a marriage has ended is required.

Evidence of how a previous marriage ended may be required to determine whether a later marriage is valid. If a widow or widower remarried after the employee's death and that marriage was annulled, evidence of the annulment is required. If the claimant is a divorced spouse or surviving divorced spouse, evidence to prove a final or absolute divorce from the employee may be required.

### §219.35 Evidence that a marriage has ended.

(a) *Preferred evidence.* Preferred evidence that a marriage has ended is—

(1) A certified copy of the decree of divorce or annulment; or

(2) Evidence of the death (See §219.23) of a party to the marriage.

(b) *Other evidence that a marriage has ended.* If preferred evidence that the marriage has ended cannot be obtained, the claimant must explain the reason therefor and submit other convincing evidence that the marriage has ended.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control numbers 3220-0021 and 3220-0140)

### §219.36 When evidence of a parent or child relationship is required.

(a) *When parent or child applies.* A person who applies for a parent's or child's annuity or for Medicare coverage is required to submit evidence of his or her relationship to the deceased employee.

(b) *When individual with child in care applies.* An individual who applies for an annuity because he or she has a child of the employee in care is required to submit evidence of the child's relationship to the employee.

(c) *Evidence required depends on relationship.* The evidence the Board will require depends on whether the person is the employee's natural child, adopted child, stepchild, grandchild, or

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stepgrandchild; or whether the person is the employee's natural parent or adopting parent.

### §219.37 Evidence of natural parent or child relationship.

(a) *Preferred evidence.* If the claimant is the natural parent of the employee, preferred evidence of the relationship is a copy of the employee's public or religious birth record. If the claimant is the natural child of the employee, preferred evidence of the relationship is a copy of the child's public or religious birth record.

(b) *Other evidence of parent or child relationship.* (1) When preferred evidence of a parent or child relationship cannot be obtained, the Board may ask the applicant for evidence of the employee's marriage or of the marriage of the employee's parents if that is needed to remove any reasonable doubt of the relationship.

(2) To show that a person is the child of the employee, the person may be asked for evidence that he or she would be able to inherit the employee's personal property under the law of the state where the employee died or had a permanent home.

(3) In some instances the Board may ask for a signed statement from the employee that a person is his or her natural child, or for a copy of a court order showing that the person has been declared to be the child of the employee, or for a copy of a court order requiring the employee to contribute to the person's support because the person is his or her child, or for any other supporting evidence which may be required in order to establish that the person is the child of the employee.

### §219.38 Evidence of stepparent or stepchild relationship.

If the claimant is a stepparent or stepchild of the employee, the Board will ask for the evidence described in §219.37 or §219.39 which shows the person's natural or adoptive relationship to the employee's husband, wife, widow, or widower. The Board will also ask for evidence of the husband's, wife's, widow's or widower's marriage to the employee (See §§219.30-219.33).