

**§ 178.204**

**5 CFR Ch. I (1-1-08 Edition)**

of beneficiary will be effective as long as employment by the same agency continues. If an employee resigns and is reemployed, or is transferred to another agency, the employee must execute another designation of beneficiary form in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section. A new designation of beneficiary is not required, however, when an employee's agency or site, function, records, equipment, and personnel are absorbed by another agency.

**§ 178.204 Order of payment precedence.**

To facilitate the settlement of the accounts of the deceased employees, money due an employee at the time of the employee's death shall be paid to the person or persons surviving at the date of death, in the following order of precedence, and the payment bars recovery by another person of amounts so paid:

- (a) First, to the beneficiary or beneficiaries designated by the employee in a writing received in the employing agency prior to the employee's death;
- (b) Second, if there is no designated beneficiary, to the surviving spouse of the employee;
- (c) Third, if none of the above, to the child or children of the employee and descendants of deceased children by representation;
- (d) Fourth, if none of the above, to the parents of the deceased employee or the survivor of them;
- (e) Fifth, if none of the above, to the duly appointed legal representative of the estate of the deceased employee; and
- (f) Sixth, if none of the above, to the person or persons entitled under the laws of the domicile of the employee at the time of his or her death.

**§ 178.205 Procedures upon death of employee.**

(a) *Claim form.* As soon as practicable after the death of an employee, the agency in which the employee was last employed will request, in the order of precedence outlined in § 178.204, the appropriate person or persons to execute Standard Form 1153, Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Civilian Employee.

(b) *Claims involving minors or incompetents.* If a guardian or committee has been appointed for a minor or incompetent appearing entitled to unpaid compensation, the claim should be supported by a certificate of the court showing the appointment and qualification of the claimant in such capacity. If no guardian or committee has been or will be appointed, the initial claim should be supported by a statement showing:

- (1) Claimant's relationship to the minor or incompetent, if any;
- (2) The name and address of the person having care and custody of the minor or incompetent;
- (3) That any moneys received will be applied to the use and benefit of the minor or incompetent; and
- (4) That the appointment of a guardian or committee is not contemplated.

**§ 178.206 Return of unnegotiated Government checks.**

All unnegotiated United States Government checks drawn to the order of a decedent representing money due as defined in § 178.202, and in the possession of the claimant, should be returned to the employing agency concerned. Claimants should be instructed to return any other United States Government checks drawn to the order of a decedent, such as veterans benefits, social security benefits, or Federal tax refunds, to the agency from which the checks were received, with a request for further instructions from that agency.

**§ 178.207 Claims settlement jurisdiction.**

(a) *District of Columbia and Government corporations.* Claims for unpaid compensation due deceased employees of the government of the District of Columbia shall be paid by the District of Columbia, and those of Government corporations or mixed ownership Government corporations may be paid by the corporations.

(b) *Office of Personnel Management.* Each agency shall pay undisputed claims for the compensation due a deceased employee. Except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, disputed claims for money due deceased employees of the Federal Government will be