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A/56271/R/AG/Ins (Coord)

26 Dec 2007

Headquarters

**Southern Command
Eastern Command
Western Command
Central Command
Northern Command
Army Training Command
South Western Command**

SUSTENANCE ALLOWANCE TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN OF SERVICE PERSONNEL WHO DIE IN HARNESS

1. It has been observed that there are number of Army personnel who have differently abled children. Despite the facilities available in Asha Schools in 29 Cantonments, large number of these children are not admitted in these schools due to multifarious personal, social and administrative reasons. Thus, such children are deprived of living independently a reasonably good life in the community to which they belong. Amongst them, children suffering from any disorder or disability of the mind or physically crippled or disabled are the most vulnerable group and need special attention. The situation is more grim in case of service personnel, after whose death, the responsibility of nurturing these children falls on to the spouse/relatives/guardians.

2. The condition of handicapped children especially those who return to their roots in the rural areas, becomes further deplorable owing to neglect and/or inability/lack of willingness of their guardians/relatives to bear additional financial burden. In such circumstances, these children need special consideration in terms of financial aid as sustenance allowance to enable their guardian/ relative/care taker to provide life long caring services to these children to include :-

- (a) Medicines on regular basis and some medical equipment.
- (b) Assistive devices and specialised eqpt like wheel chairs, beds and special tables.
- (c) Special shoes and diets.
- (d) Assistance to go to hospitals.
- (e) Admission in special schools for blind, autistic or mentally challenged children, speech therapy centers and occupational therapy centers.

3. Therefore, in order to alleviate the sufferings and improve the quality of life of these special category of children and assist their guardians/care takers financially, the Board of Governors of AGIF during its 52nd Meeting held on 27 Oct 2007 has approved a monthly sustenance allowance at the rate of Rs 2000/- per month to the differently abled children of service pers who die in harness.

4. **Disabilities Covered Under the Scheme.** The disabilities covered in the scheme are as follows :-

(a) **Autistic Spectrum Disorders.** Autistic Spectrum disorders are those that include non-spoken communication problems, in particular, problems with socialisation/empathy. In other words, those suffering with the Autistic Spectrum Disorders share trouble with theory of mind, socialization, the pragmatic of language and representational play.

(b) **Cerebral Palsy.** It means a group of non-progressive conditions of a person characterised by abnormal motor control posture resulting from brain insult or injuries occurring in the pre-natal, peri-natal or infant period of development.

(c) **Mental Retardation.** It means a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person which is specially characterised by sub-normality of intelligence.

(d) **Multiple Disabilities.** A combination of two or more disabilities out of the following :-

(i) **Blindness.** Blindness refers to a condition where a person suffers from any of the following conditions, namely :-

(aa) Total absence of sight.

(ab) Visual acuity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 (snellen) in the better eye with correcting lenses.

(ac) Limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of 20 degree or worse.

(ii) **Low Vision.** Person with low vision means a person with impairment of visual functioning even after treatment or standard refractive correction but who uses or is potentially capable of using vision for the planning or execution of a task with appropriate assistive device.

(iii) **Leprosy-cured.** It means any person who has been cured of leprosy but is suffering from :-

(aa) Loss of sensation in hands or feet as well as loss of sensation and paresis in the eye and eye-lid but with no manifest deformity.

(ab) Manifest deformity and paresis but having sufficient mobility in their hands and feet to enable them to engage in normal economic activity.

(ac) Extreme physical deformity as well as advanced age which prevents him from undertaking any gainful occupation and the expression "leprosy cured" shall be construed accordingly.

(iv) **Hearing Impairment.** It means loss of sixty decibels or more in the better ear in the conversational range of frequencies.

(v) **Locomotor Disability.** It means disability of the bones, joints or muscles leading to substantial restriction of the movement of the limbs or any form of cerebral palsy.

(vi) **Mental illness.** Mental illness means any mental disorder other than mental retardation.

5. **Other Eligibility Conditions.**

(a) The extent of disability as certified by a medical authority must not be less than 40 per cent of any disability as mentioned above in Para 4.

(b) The child must be unable to earn a living.

(c) The disability of the child should manifest itself before the death of the service personnel while in service.

(d) The parent of the such handicapped child should have died while on active service.

(e) The following cases will not be eligible :-

(i) Handicapped children of serving members who have died prior to the scheme coming into effect.

(ii) Retired personnel who have died leaving behind handicapped children.

(iii) Handicapped children of all serving and retired personnel.

6. The Sustenance Allowance would be applicable under the following conditions: -

(a) The Sustenance Allowance will be given only to those differently abled children whose parents die while in service on or after 27 Oct 2007 and will not be applicable if the parent's death has occurred prior to 27 Oct 2007.

(b) In case the differently abled child dies subsequently, the payment would be continued to the next eligible differently abled child of the deceased soldier, if any. If no such child is there, the payment would be stopped by the AGIF from the following month in which the first child dies. Only one differently abled child will be given the sustenance allowance at any one time.

(c) If there are more than one such child, the sustenance allowance shall be paid to the elder child, and the younger of them will get the sustenance allowance only after the lifetime of the elder .

(d) The sustenance allowance shall be paid to such son or daughter through the guardian as if he or she were a minor.

7. **Discontinuation of Sustenance Allowance.** The Sustenance Allowance will be discontinued on the following occurrences :-

- (a) If the disability of the affected child improves to the extent that it becomes less than forty per cent.
- (b) If the disabled child gets married.
- (c) If the disabled child starts earning his/her livelihood.

8. A corpus fund as approved by the Board of Governors will be created and invested in any Nationalised Bank by AGIF. The interest accruing thereof will be utilized to give out the sustenance allowance. This allowance will be remitted every quarter in the account of the differently abled child which will be operated under guardianship of legal/natural guardian.

9. **Procedure and Documentation.** To ensure that benefits are given to only legitimate beneficiary, the following procedures and documentation will be carried out:-

(a) DO Part II Orders for the disability suffered by the child/children be published by the Unit. DO Part II Order must preferably be done for all eligible affected cases while the parent of the differently abled child is on active service. If the DO Part II order is published after the death of the serving person, then same will be published by the Record Office. A certificate will be required to be obtained from the CO of the unit that the disability of the child existed prior to the death of the serving personnel.

(b) While initiating the case after the death of the service personnel, a Medical Disability Certificate indicating percentage of disability/disabilities will be required to be given by a Medical Board. The Medical Board will be constituted by at least three Medical officers of which one shall be of the rank of Colonel and at least one shall be a specialist in the particular field, as the case may be. The members could be of the rank of Lt Col or below. It shall be incumbent upon the nearest MH where the family of the deceased soldier is residing to carry out necessary action for completion of the Medical Board proceedings.

(c) The Medical Board shall satisfy that the disability is of such a nature so as to prevent him or her from earning his or her livelihood and same will be endorsed on the Medical Disability Certificate setting out, as far as possible, the exact mental or physical condition of the child.

(d) **Initiation of Claim.** On occurrence of death of serving parent, the Unit will initiate claim for Sustenance Allowance for Differently Abled Child if applicable and forward all documents to AGIF through MP 5&6 in case of officers and respective Record Office in case of PBOR. Format for initiating claim is given at Appendix A.

(e) **Subsequent Documentation.** Legal guardian receiving the sustenance allowance of such a child shall produce the following periodical certificates to

AGIF, failing which the sustenance allowance will be suspended :-

- (i) Life certificate of the child as per format given at Appendix B will be submitted in the month of Nov every year.
- (ii) A certificate from a Medical specialist at the nearest MH to the effect that the child continues to suffer from the disability/disabilities covered in this scheme with the percentage of disability mentioned separately, once in every three years (ie, within the following month after completion of three years of start of sustenance allowance and so on).
- (iii) A non-earning certificate based on medical certificate from the concerned Zila Sainik Board, once in every three years as per format given at Appendix C (ie, within the following month after completion of three years of start of sustenance allowance and so on).

10. The above provisions will be applicable for cases with effect from 27 Oct 2007. Past cases will NOT be covered under the scheme.

Sd/- x x x x x
(JS Kanwar)
Brig (Retd)
Dir Adm & Secy
for Managing Director

Copy to :-

All Corps/Div/Area/Bde HQ
All Cat A & B Establishments
All Dtes at Army HQ
DGMS (Army)
MP 5&6/MPRS (O)
MP-8 (I of R)
All Units
The Secretary
Kendriya Sainik Board
Ministry of Defence
West Block 4, RK Puram
New Delhi – 110066

- for issue of necessary instrs to all Mil Hosps.
- for issue of necessary instrs to all Record Offices.
- for issue of necessary instrs to all Zila/Rajya Sainik Boards.

Internal

Claim Div
Fin Div
Kardex
System

Appendix A

(Refers to Para 9 (d) of AGIF letter No
A/56271/R/AG/Ins(Coord) dt Dec 2007)

**FORM FOR CLAIMING SUSTENANCE ALLOWANCE IN RESPECT
OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILD WHOSE SERVING
PARENT DIED IN HARNESS**

1. Service Particulars of Serving Person who Died in harness

- (a) Personal/JC/Army No _____
- (b) Name : _____
- (c) Last Unit Served : _____
- (d) Corps / Regt : _____
- (e) Date of Commissioning/Enrolment _____
- (f) Date of Death : _____
- (g) Cause of death in brief _____
(To be supported with a copy of death certificate and unit Part II orders).

Passport size photograph of the differently abled child duly attested by OC/CO Unit/ Secretary Zila Sanik Board as the case may be.

2. Particulars of the Differently Abled Child in whose respect Claim being Preferred

- (a) Name (As per service record) : _____
- (b) Date of birth : _____
- (c) Nature and percentage of disability : _____

- (d) Date on which disability occurred/Identified/diagnosed : _____
(To be supported with copy of Medical Disability Certificate and Part II orders).
- (e) Whether enrolled in Asha School of AWWA or any other equivalent school in civil (Give Name of School with Date of admission).

3. Particulars of Any Other Differently Abled Children (if any)

- (a) Name _____ Date of Birth _____
- (b) Date and nature of disability _____
- (c) Percentage of disability : _____

(e) Whether enrolled in Asha School of AWWA or any other equivalent school in civil (Give Name of School with Date of admission).

(To be supported with a copy Medical Disability Certificate and Part II orders)

4. **Particular of Natural/Legal Guardian of the Disabled Child**

(a) Name : _____ (Natural/Legal guardian)

(b) Age/Date of birth : _____

(c) Relationship with the child : _____

(d) Permanent home address : _____

_____ Tele No _____ (if any).

5. Details of Bank Account to which the Sustenance Allowance to be remitted :-

Name of Bank _____ Branch _____

Bank Code No _____ Bank Acct No _____

Postal address of the Bank _____

Particulars of Bank Account Holder _____

VERIFICATION AND REMARKS BY CO/OC UNIT

**VERIFICATION AND REMARKS BY SENIOR RECORD
OFFICER/DAAG MP 5 & 6/MPRS(O)**

Appendix B

(Refers to Para 9 (e) (i) of AGIF letter No
A/56271/R/AG/Ins(Coord) dt Dec 2007)

LIFE CERTIFICATE FOR SUSTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Certified that I have seen Son/Daughter of No
..... Rank Name (late) who is the resident of
House No/Name Vill/Town Post
..... Tehsil Distt State Pin
Code and he/she is alive on this date and his/her legal guardian
(Name) is drawing sustenance allowance through account No
..... from this Branch of (Name of Bank).

Place : (Signature of Bank Manager of the
of the concerned Branch
Date :

Notes :- (i) If the life certificate is not received on time, the sustenance allowance will be suspended/stopped.

(ii) Board of Governors of AGIF reserves the right to review/discontinue the scheme as and when considered necessary.

Appendix C

(Refers to Para 9 (e) (iii) of AGIF letter No
A/56271/R/AG/Ins(Coord) dt Dec 2007)

NON EARNING CERTIFICATE FOR SUSTENANCE ALLOWANCE

It is certified that Son/Daughter of No
.....RankName (late) resident of
Vill/Mohalla Post Office Teh Distt
..... Stateis differently abled child as per medical certificate
produced by(Name of guardian) relationship with the child
..... resident of Vill/Mohalla Post Office Teh
..... Distt State who to the best of my
knowledge and belief is not earning his/her livelihood and is dependent on the guardian.

Place :

Date :



(Signature of Secretary Zila Sainik Board)