

Claims process for life policy proceeds

Frequently asked questions

Where do I send my claim information?

Please send your completed claim form and one original certified death certificate, along with additional required documentation, to:

EMC National Life Company
PO Box 9197
Des Moines, IA 50306-9197

Can I email or fax my claim information to you?

If the total death benefit proceeds are less than \$100,000 for all policies, you may email or fax your claim documentation, including a copy of the death certificate. If the total death proceeds are \$100,000 or more, a certified original death certificate will be required and you will need to send your documentation via mail.

If you aren't sure which category your claim(s) fall into, refer to the letter that accompanied this form. Emailed documents can be sent to claims@emcnl.com or directly to the claims team member who is handling your claim. Our fax number is 515-237-2282.

What makes it a certified death certificate?

Certified death certificates have either a raised seal or a multicolored signature seal from the county, city or state that issued the certificate. In addition, the original death certificate should contain the signature of an appropriate officer of the county, city or state.

Will you accept a certified death certificate with a pending cause of death?

No. We must receive a certified death certificate with the final cause of death.

If a primary beneficiary is deceased, can I send a copy of the certified death certificate for the deceased beneficiary?

Yes, a copy is acceptable. If a copy of a death certificate is not available, we may accept an obituary, funeral program or mention in another's obituary.

What is the contestability period?

The contestability period occurs when the insured's death is within two years of the effective date or reinstatement date of the policy or any rider. If a claim should occur within this period, EMC National Life has the right to review medical history and other information to confirm that the information supplied during the application process was accurate.

What is a funeral home assignment?

A funeral home assignment is a binding contract between a contract owner or beneficiary and a funeral home. If a beneficiary signs an assignment form authorizing us to direct payment for all or a portion of the proceeds to a funeral home and the assignment is received prior to the claim being settled, we are obligated to honor the assignment and pay the funeral home accordingly. In some instances, a collateral assignment may have been made prior to the insured's death.

What is needed to process an assignment to a funeral home?

A copy of the signed assignment request and a copy of the final bill showing the outstanding balance due from the funeral home is required to process the assignment.

My name has changed since the last beneficiary designation. What do I need to provide to validate the name change?

If a beneficiary's name has changed due to marriage or divorce, a copy of the marriage or divorce decree is preferred. If the name has changed due to any other reason, we require a court document with the name change from the birth name to the requested name.

Why does a beneficiary, estate or trust need to provide their Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number?

The claim cannot be processed without this information. Interest is paid on some claims from the date of death until the claim is paid. The Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number is required to report interest payments to the Internal Revenue Service.

What is a form 1099-INT?

Form 1099-INT is utilized to report to the Internal Revenue Service interest payments made to an individual or entity during any calendar year. Form 1099-INT is mailed to an individual or entity in January of the year following the interest payments and informs the individual or entity of the interest paid to be reported on their tax return. You will receive a form 1099-INT if the interest paid on your claim is \$10.00 or greater.

What happens if there is no guardian named for a minor child beneficiary?

The Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (UTMA) or Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (UGMA) permits disbursement of funds to a minor child without guardianship papers. There are certain guidelines and limitations determined by each state regarding disbursement of funds to a minor under these acts. Contact EMC National Life for specific information.

What if a beneficiary wants their Attorney-in-Fact (Power of Attorney) to complete the claim form on their behalf?

The Power of Attorney document must be submitted with the claim form and certified death certificate. When the claim form is completed by the Attorney-in-Fact, the signature should include their proper title reflecting the fiduciary relationship. All information on the claim form should be completed on behalf of the beneficiary.

Are life insurance benefits taxable?

Life insurance benefits are generally not subject to income tax. However, EMC National Life may pay interest on the insurance proceeds, which may be taxable. The federal government requires us, and all other financial institutions, to report interest we pay to you. Since interest paid to you may be taxable, you should consult your tax advisor.



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800-232-5818
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