

## 9. Survivor Benefits Information

The Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Survivor Benefits Information service is designed to provide lifetime benefit and entitlement information and services to surviving family members of Coast Guard members who die on active duty or when drilling under Reserve orders.

Certain eligibility and assistance restrictions apply, and are outlined below.

### a. General

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance has teamed with Armed Forces Services Corporation (AFSC) to provide this service to eligible Coast Guard Mutual Assistance clients. This service provides the following benefits to our clients:

- Extends assistance to the surviving family beyond the Coast Guard Casualty Assistance Officer's period of assistance.
- Families are immediately provided vital financial planning information not previously available.
- Families will not miss out on entitlements in later years.

The cost of the service is paid by CGMA.

### b. Eligibility

The following surviving dependents of Coast Guard members who die on active duty or when drilling under Reserve orders, on or after 1 July 2004, may receive membership in AFSC:

- Spouse
- Spouse and children
- Children of single-parents

### c. Services

AFSC will provide an immediate analysis of available benefits and answer questions about survivor benefits. AFSC will also help guide the family through the administrative steps in dealing with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Social Security Administration and the Survivor Benefit plan.

Using unique proprietary software, AFSC will calculate, integrate, and project a lifetime stream of government survivor benefits. Specifically, AFSC will: