



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of Redress Administration

Verification Unit

P.O. Box 66740  
Washington, D.C. 20035-6740

APR 7 1990

To the Spouse of a Deceased Eligible Individual:

The Office of Redress Administration (ORA) believes that you may be eligible for compensation as the spouse of a deceased Japanese American who was interned, relocated or evacuated during World War II. As that person's heir, you would be entitled to receive the full payment of \$20,000.

**General Background**

On August 10, 1988, President Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. app. 1989b) which authorized payment to Japanese Americans who were interned, relocated or evacuated during World War II and were still living on that date.

If an eligible person died on or after August 10, 1988, the Civil Liberties Act allows payment to certain heirs in the following order: first to a living spouse of at least one year; if there is no such spouse, to the children of the deceased; if there are also no children, the payment is made in equal shares to the parents of the deceased.

***If you wish to be considered for payment, please follow these instructions.***

**A. What documentation to submit. Send these items if the boxes are checked:**

- Completed Declaration of Eligibility. (see page 1 of attachment)
- Proof of your marriage to your spouse.  
(see instructions on page 4)
- A document with both your name and address on it.  
(see instructions on page 5)
- Proof of your spouse's death. (see instructions on page 5)
- Proof of your birth. (see instructions on page 6)
- Evidence of your name change. (see instructions on page 6)

**B. How to submit documentation to ORA:**

1. Place the Declaration of Eligibility and all required documents in the enclosed envelope. You do not need to put stamps on the envelope.
2. Mail to ORA.

**C. What action ORA will take:**

1. ORA will review the documents you submit and will send you a letter stating that the review is complete or request more information.
2. As soon as funds are available, payments will begin. Payments will be issued to the oldest eligibles (or their verified heirs) first. ORA anticipates that the first payments will be made in October, 1990.

*If you are submitting a declaration or documentation for another person, please see special instructions on the second page of the Declaration.*

*If you wish to refuse payment, write a letter stating that you do not want to receive payment. Place your letter in the enclosed envelope and mail it. You do not need to put stamps on the envelope. Your written refusal will be considered final.*

After reading this letter and the instructions which follow, if you are confused or need assistance, please call the ORA Help Line at (202)653-8360 (Voice) or (202)786-5986 (TDD), Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm east coast time.

Sincerely,



Robert K. Bratt  
Administrator for Redress

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING DOCUMENTATION TO ORA

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

In the cover letter, you have been asked to furnish documentation to ORA. You may send three kinds of documents:

1. **ORIGINALS** Please send only originals you do not want back.

2. **PHOTOCOPIES**

Photocopies must be notarized

or

You must write the following statement on the photocopy:

**"I declare under penalty of perjury that this photocopy is a true and correct copy of the original (bill, statement, power of attorney, etc.)"** (Signature and today's date).

3. **STATEMENTS** from people who know you

Statements must be notarized

or

The person writing the statement must write the following at the end of the statement:

**"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement is true and correct."**  
(Signature and today's date).

**NOTE:** If you reside outside the United States, the statement signed under penalty of perjury must include, "under the laws of the United States of America."

**ALSO NOTE:** A single document may fulfill more than one requirement. For example, a birth certificate can be both proof of your birth and proof that you are the child of the deceased eligible.

**Confused or need assistance? Call the ORA Help Line at (202)653-8360 (Voice) or (202)786-5986 (TDD), Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm east coast time.**

## PROOF OF YOUR MARRIAGE TO THE DECEASED

These are examples of acceptable documents. Send only an original or certified copy you do not want back, or a photocopy that is either notarized or contains the statement, **“I declare under penalty of perjury that this photocopy is a true and correct copy of the original (marriage certificate, etc.)”** (Signature and today’s date).

o You can submit ONE of these:

A certificate of the marriage.

A religious record of the marriage.

A statement of the clergyman or magistrate who officiated at your marriage. The statement can be either notarized or contain the statement, **“I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.”** (Signature and today’s date).

Statements from two eyewitnesses to the marriage ceremony. These statements can be either notarized or contain the statement, **“I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.”** (Signature and today’s date).

o If there was no official marriage, but you lived in a jurisdiction where **“Common Law”** marriages were recognized, you should send a statement explaining all the facts and circumstances concerning your relationship, and statements by two persons who know that you and the deceased lived as husband and wife. These statements can be either notarized or contain the following statement, **“I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.”** (Signature and today’s date).

## **A DOCUMENT WITH BOTH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON IT**

Submit a recent printed document (two years or less) with both your name and address on it. Send only an original or certified record you do not want back, or a photocopy that is either notarized or contains the statement, **“I declare under penalty of perjury that this photocopy is a true and correct copy of the original (bill, etc.)”** (Signature and today's date).

o You can submit ONE of these:

A recent bank statement or credit card.

A recent utility bill, such as electric or telephone.

A statement from the administrator of the convalescent home where you reside.

o If you do not have any of these, you may send statements from two people who know your current address. These statements must be notarized or contain the statement, **“I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement is true and correct.”** (Signature and today's date).

## **PROOF OF YOUR SPOUSE'S DEATH**

Send only an original or certified record you do not want back, or a photocopy that is either notarized or contains the statement, **“I declare under penalty of perjury that this photocopy is a true and correct copy of the original (death certificate, etc.)”** (Signature and today's date).

o You can submit ONE of these:

A public record of death, or certificate signed by the official in charge of the record.

A statement by the funeral director or attending physician. This statement must be notarized or contain the statement, **“I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement is true and correct.”** (Signature and today's date).

If death occurred in a foreign country, send a certified copy of the record of death, or the report of death by an employee of the State Department.

o If you do not have any of these, send statements from two persons who know your spouse's date and place of death. These statements must be notarized or contain the statement, **“I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement is true and correct.”** (Signature and today's date).

## **PROOF OF YOUR BIRTH**

Send only an original or certified record you do not want back, or a photocopy that is either notarized or contains the statement, **"I declare under penalty of perjury that this photocopy is a true and correct copy of the original (birth certificate, etc.)"** (Signature and today's date).

o You can submit ONE of these:

A birth certificate.

A religious record, certified by the person responsible for maintaining those records.

A hospital birth record, certified by the person responsible for maintaining those records.

o If you do not have any of these, you may send statements from at least two people who know your birth date. These statements must be notarized or contain the statement, **"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement is true and correct."** (Signature and today's date).

## **PROOF OF NAME CHANGE**

You must submit this proof if your current legal name is different from that which appears on the records you sent to prove your birth and/or relationship to the deceased eligible.

Send only an original or certified record you do not want back or a photocopy that is either notarized or contains the statement, **"I declare under penalty of perjury that this photocopy is a true and correct copy of the original (marriage license, etc.)"** (Signature and today's date).

o You can submit ONE of these:

A marriage license or certificate.

A divorce decree.

A court order of name change.

o If you do not have any of these, you may send statements from at least two people who know your birth date. These statements must be notarized or contain the statement, **"I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement is true and correct."** (Signature and today's date).