

Social Security Death Master File (DMF)

Do Not Pay (DNP) Quick Reference Card

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Death Master File?

The Death Master File (DMF) from the Social Security Administration (SSA) is a data source that contains more than 94 million records. The “file” is created from internal SSA records of deceased persons possessing social security numbers and whose deaths were reported to the SSA .

Does DNP have access to the full DMF?

No. Legislation (i.e., the Social Security Act) precludes the sharing of the full DMF with non-benefits paying agencies.

What is the difference between the full DMF and what is available in the DNP Portal?

The DMF does not contain information from states. However, it is the same information that is made available to the public (e.g., banks and credit companies) through a government information clearing-house. The full DMF is only made available to benefits paying agencies.

What kind of information does a match in the DNP Portal return?

When conducting searches, the DNP Portal returns the data elements listed below. See the second page for an explanation of each data element.

- ◆ Decedent’s name
- ◆ Date of birth
- ◆ Date of death
- ◆ Social Security Number

How much does the DMF in the DNP Portal cost for agencies?

The DMF is available at no cost to agencies enrolled in DNP.

How do I gain access to the DMF in the DNP Portal?

All users of the DNP Portal must apply for data source approval. However, if the Department of the Treasury disburses funds for your agency via a Payment Automation Manager (PAM) file, then the PAM file is vetted against the DMF through the DNP Portal during the Payment Integration phase of the payment life-cycle.

Will DNP stop a payment if there is a match against the DMF in the DNP Portal?

No. DNP does not stop payments. However, contact your Senior Agency Outreach Liaison to discuss how to leverage DNP during the pre-award/pre-payment phases of the lifecycle.

What if my agency already uses the full version of the DMF?

DNP recommends that an agency use the data source that best meets the business needs of that agency.

Can the DMF be downloaded from the DNP Portal?

No. Matches are made and displayed in the Portal in the Payment Integration function. Matched records may be downloaded into an Excel spreadsheet.

How frequently is the DMF updated within the DNP Portal?

Updates for the DMF occur on a weekly basis. A full refresh of the data occurs quarterly.





How to Fix Incorrect Data

DNP does not own the content within the DMF. If a payee is incorrectly listed in the DMF, inquiries or data disputes must be conducted via the payee’s local Social Security office as soon as possible. To find the correct local office, call the U.S. Social Security Administration at:

(800) 772-1213

or visit:

<https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

Important Links

Do Not Pay

Data Correction Contacts

<https://www.donotpay.treas.gov/Privacy.htm>

DNP Website

<https://www.donotpay.treas.gov/>

FAQs

www.donotpay.treas.gov/FAQs

Data Elements Returned in the DNP Portal

The following fields are provided in the Portal when a payment is matched to the DMF.

Field	Description
Payee Name	Full name of the deceased individual
TIN	Taxpayer Identification Number of the deceased individual
DOD	Date of Death (MM/DD/YYYY) of the deceased individual; may contain only the month and year of death records prior to 2000
DOB	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) of the deceased individual
DOD to Payment Date Difference	The number of days from the date of death to when this payment was made
Match Level/Match Type	Match Level describes the quality of the match based upon the Match Type listed; match levels are either Conclusive, Probable or Possible, depending on the Match Type specified
Verify or Proof	V = Verified - the report has been verified with a family member or someone acting on behalf of the family of the deceased individual
	P = Proof - a death certificate or other required information has been observed relating to the deceased individual
	N or [blank] = prior to using V or P codes, or fairly reliable source, but no information meeting V or P requirements