

(i) Determining whether such individual is or was a miner;

(ii) Establishing the applicability of any of the presumptions described in section 411(c) of the Act and part 718 of this subchapter; and

(iii) Determining the identity of a coal mine operator liable for the payment of benefits in accordance with § 725.495.

(2) The presumption may be rebutted by evidence which demonstrates that:

(i) The individual was not regularly exposed to coal mine dust during his or her work in or around a coal mine or coal preparation facility; or

(ii) The individual did not work regularly in or around a coal mine or coal preparation facility.

(c) A person who is or was a self-employed miner or independent contractor, and who otherwise meets the requirements of this paragraph, shall be considered a miner for the purposes of this part.

(d) *Conditions of entitlement; miner.* An individual is eligible for benefits under this subchapter if the individual:

(1) Is a miner as defined in this section; and

(2) Has met the requirements for entitlement to benefits by establishing that he or she:

(i) Has pneumoconiosis (see § 718.202), and

(ii) The pneumoconiosis arose out of coal mine employment (see § 718.203), and

(iii) Is totally disabled (see § 718.204(c)), and

(iv) The pneumoconiosis contributes to the total disability (see § 718.204(c)); and

(3) Has filed a claim for benefits in accordance with the provisions of this part.

§ 725.203 Duration and cessation of entitlement; miner.

(a) An individual is entitled to benefits as a miner for each month beginning with the first month on or after January 1, 1974, in which the miner is totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis arising out of coal mine employment.

(b) The last month for which such individual is entitled to benefits is the month before the month during which

either of the following events first occurs:

(1) The miner dies; or

(2) The miner's total disability ceases (see § 725.504).

(c) An individual who has been finally adjudged to be totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis and is receiving benefits under the Act shall promptly notify the Office and the responsible coal mine operator, if any, if he or she engages in his or her usual coal mine work or comparable and gainful work.

(d) Upon reasonable notice, an individual who has been finally adjudged entitled to benefits shall submit to any additional tests or examinations the Office deems appropriate, and shall submit medical reports and other relevant evidence the Office deems necessary, if an issue arises pertaining to the validity of the original award.

CONDITIONS AND DURATION OF ENTITLEMENT: MINER'S DEPENDENTS (AUGMENTED BENEFITS)

§ 725.204 Determination of relationship; spouse.

(a) For the purpose of augmenting benefits, an individual will be considered to be the spouse of a miner if:

(1) The courts of the State in which the miner is domiciled would find that such individual and the miner validly married; or

(2) The courts of the State in which the miner is domiciled would find, under the law they would apply in determining the devolution of the miner's intestate personal property, that the individual is the miner's spouse; or

(3) Under State law, such individual would have the right of a spouse to share in the miner's intestate personal property; or

(4) Such individual went through a marriage ceremony with the miner resulting in a purported marriage between them and which, but for a legal impediment, would have been a valid marriage, unless the individual entered into the purported marriage with knowledge that it was not a valid marriage, or if such individual and the miner were not living in the same household in the month in which a request is filed that the miner's benefits