

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE FILLING OUT FORM

Purpose

Active or Former Members:

1. If you are married, you must designate your spouse. If you are not married, you may designate one person as your beneficiary or designate multiple beneficiaries. Multiple beneficiaries are only entitled to share the lump sum death benefit. If you are survived by a spouse and your spouse elects an annuity, your spouse is entitled to a monthly benefit regardless of your spouse's age. If you are not survived by a spouse, the designated beneficiary is entitled to a lump sum payment or monthly benefit. If the designated beneficiary elects a monthly benefit, the beneficiary is not entitled to payment until he or she attains age 60 or unless he or she elects a reduced benefit upon attaining age 50.
2. If at the time of your death, you have a spouse, then the designation of any other beneficiary is void, and any benefits due at your death shall be paid to your spouse.
3. If at your death there is no surviving spouse or designated beneficiary or all of your beneficiaries predecease you, your applicable benefit is paid to your estate.
4. If you and your spouse are deemed to have died at the same time from the same event, your dependent children under age 18 are entitled to share a lump sum payment or monthly survivor benefit.

Death Benefit for Active Member with at least 8 years of service

1. Your surviving spouse or a surviving designated beneficiary qualifies for a monthly benefit equal to 50% of the retirement allowance that would be payable to you or a lump sum payment consisting of your accumulated contributions and an amount equal to your annual salary at time of death.
2. Multiple beneficiaries are only entitled to share the lump sum payment.

Death Benefit for Active Member with less than 8 years of service

1. The death benefit for active members with less than 8 years of service is a lump sum payment equal to your annual salary plus return of your contributions with interest.

Death Benefit for Former Member with less than 8 years of service

1. The death benefit for a former member with less than 8 years of service is a lump sum payment of your contributions with interest only.

Retired Members

1. If you are married at time of retirement, you must designate your spouse as your sole beneficiary. If you are not married at time of retirement, you may designate one person as your beneficiary for a monthly benefit. Your spouse is entitled to a monthly benefit at your death regardless of your spouse's age. Your designated beneficiary, other than your spouse, is not entitled to payment until he or she attains age 60 or unless he or she elects a reduced benefit upon attaining age 50.
2. If you are not married at time of retirement and elect to forfeit the available survivor option, you may designate multiple beneficiaries. Your multiple beneficiaries share equally in a lump sum payment which is the unused portion of the present value at time of retirement.
3. If you marry or remarry after retirement, your designation of one person for a monthly benefit or multiple beneficiaries for a one-time payment is void, and your spouse automatically is entitled to the survivor benefit due under the basic allowance.

Multiple Plan Memberships

1. If you are a member of more than one system, you must properly complete a *Designation of Beneficiary* (Form 4) for each system (Employees', Teachers', Correctional Officers', Law Enforcement Officers' and State Police plans.) Judges use Form 4.1. Legislators use Form 55.