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(1) The offer must be made in writing;

(2) The employee must meet established qualification requirements; and

(3) The offered position must be—

(i) In the employee's agency, including an agency to which the employee with his or her function is transferred in a transfer of functions between agencies;

(ii) Within the employee's commuting area as defined in § 831.1202 of this part, unless geographic mobility is a condition of the employee's employment;

(iii) Of the same tenure and work schedule; and

(iv) Not lower than the equivalent of two grades or pay levels below the employee's current grade or pay level, without consideration of the employee's eligibility to retain his or her current grade or pay under part 536 of this chapter or other authority. In movements between pay schedules or pay systems, the representative rate of the grade or pay level that is two grades below that of the current position shall be compared with the representative rate of the grade or pay level of the offered position. For this purpose, ''representative rate'' has the meaning given that term in § 536.102 of this chapter.

[48 FR 38786, Aug. 26, 1983. Redesignated and amended at 58 FR 49179, Sept. 22, 1993]

Subpart F—Survivor Annuities

SOURCE: 50 FR 20070, May 13, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF REGULATIONS ON SURVIVOR ANNUITIES

§ 831.601 Purpose and scope.

(a) This subpart explains the annuity benefits payable in the event of the death of employees, retirees, and Members; the actions that employees, retirees, Members, and their current spouses, former spouses, and eligible children must take to qualify for survivor annuities; and the types of evidence required to demonstrate entitlement to provide survivor annuities or qualify for survivor annuities.

(b) Unless otherwise specified, this subpart, except §§ 831.682 and 831.683 and the provisions relating to children's survivor annuities, only applies to employees and Members who retire under a provision of law that permits election of a reduced annuity to provide a survivor annuity.

[55 FR 9099, Mar. 12, 1990, as amended at 58 FR 52880, Oct. 13, 1993]

§ 831.602 Relation to other regulations.

(a) Part 838 of this chapter contains information about former spouses' entitlement to survivor annuities based on provisions in court orders or court-approved property settlement agreements.

(b) Subpart T of this part contains information about entitlement to lump-sum death benefits.

(c) Parts 870, 871, 872 and 873 of this chapter contain information about coverage under the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program.

(d) Part 890 of this chapter contains information about coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

(e) Section 831.109 contains information about the administrative review rights available to a person who has been denied a survivor annuity or an opportunty to make an election under this subpart.

(f) Subparts C and U of this part contain information about service credit deposits by survivors of employees or Members.

[50 FR 20070, May 13, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 31931, Sept. 8, 1986; 58 FR 43493, Aug. 17, 1993]

§ 831.603 Definitions.

As used in this subpart—

CSRS means subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code.

Current spouse means a living person who is married to the employee, Member, or retiree at the time of the employee's, Member's, or retiree's death.

Current spouse annuity means a recurring benefit under CSRS that is payable (after the employee's, Member's, or retiree's death) to a current spouse who meets the requirements of § 831.642.

Deposit means a deposit required by the Civil Service Retirement Spouse Equity Act of 1984, Pub. L. 98–615, 98 Stat. 3195. *Deposit*, as used in this subpart does not include a service credit

deposit or redeposit under sections 8334(c) or (d) of title 5, United States Code.

First regular monthly payment means the first annuity check payable on a recurring basis (other than an estimated payment or an adjustment check) after OPM has initially adjudicated the regular rate of annuity payable under CSRS and has paid the annuity accrued since the time of retirement. The ''first regular monthly payment'' is generally preceded by estimated payments before the claim can be adjudicated and by an adjustment check (including the difference between the estimated rate and the initially adjudicated rate).

Former spouse means a living person who was married for at least 9 months to an employee, Member, or retiree who performed at least 18 months of creditable service in a position covered by CSRS and whose marriage to the employee was terminated prior to the death of the employee, Member, or retiree. Except in §§ 831.682 and 831.683, *former spouse* includes only persons who were married to an employee or Member on or after May 7, 1985, or who were the spouse of a retiree who retired on or after May 7, 1985, regardless of the date of termination of the marriage.

Former spouse annuity means a recurring benefit under CSRS that is payable to a former spouse after the employee's, Member's, or retiree's death.

Fully reduced annuity means the recurring payments under CSRS received by a retiree who has elected the maximum allowable reduction in annuity to provide a current spouse annuity and/or a former spouse annuity or annuities.

Insurable interest annuity means the recurring payments under CSRS to a retiree who has elected a reduction in annuity to provide a survivor annuity to a person with an insurable interest in the retiree.

Marriage means a marriage recognized in law or equity under the whole law of the jurisdiction with the most significant interest in the marital status of the employee, Member, or retiree unless the law of that jurisdiction is contrary to the public policy of the United States. If a jurisdiction would recognize more than one marriage in law or equity, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will recognize only one marriage, but will defer to the local courts to determine which marriage should be recognized.

Member means a Member of Congress.

Net annuity means the net annuity as defined in § 838.103 of this chapter.

Partially reduced annuity means the recurring payments under CSRS to a retiree who has elected less than the maximum allowable reduction in annuity to provide a current spouse annuity or a former spouse annuity.

Present value factor means the amount of money (earning interest at an assumed rate) required at the time of retirement to fund an annuity that starts out at the rate of $1 a month and is payable in monthly installments for the annuitant's lifetime based on mortality rates for non-disability annuitants under the Civil Service Retirement System; and increases each year at an assumed rate of inflation. Interest, mortality, and inflation rates used in computing the present value are those used by the Board of Actuaries of the Civil Service Retirement System for valuation of the System, based on dynamic assumptions. The present value factors are unisex factors obtained by averaging six distinct present value factors, weighted by the total dollar value of annuities typically paid to new retirees at each age.

Qualifying court order means a court order that awards a former spouse annuity and that satisfies the requirements of section 8341(h) of title 5, United States Code, for awarding a former spouse annuity.

Retiree means a former employee or Member who is receiving recurring payments under CSRS based on service by the employee or Member. ''Retiree,'' as used in this subpart, does not include a current spouse, former spouse, child, or person with an insurable interest receiving a survivor annuity.

Self-only annuity means the recurring unreduced payments under CSRS to a retiree with no survivor annuity to anyone.

Time of retirement means the effective commencing date for a retired employee's or Member's annuity.

[50 FR 20070, May 13, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 31931, Sept. 8, 1986; 57 FR 33597–33598, July 29, 1992; 58 FR 52880, Oct. 13, 1993]

ELECTIONS AT THE TIME OF RETIREMENT

§ 831.611 Election at time of retirement of fully reduced annuity to provide a current spouse annuity.

(a) A married employee or Member retiring under CSRS will receive a fully reduced annuity to provide a current spouse annuity unless—

(1) The employee or Member, with the consent of the current spouse, elects a self-only annuity, a partially reduced annuity, or a fully reduced annuity to provide a former spouse annuity, in accordance with § 831.612(b) or § 831.614; or

(2) The employee or Member elects a self-only annuity, a partially reduced annuity or a fully reduced annuity to provide a former spouse annuity, and current spousal consent is waived in accordance with § 831.608.

(b) Qualifying court orders that award former spouse annuities prevent payment of current spouse annuities to the extent necessary to comply with the court order and § 831.614.

(c) The maximum rate of a current spouse annuity is 55 percent of the rate of the retiring employee's or Member's self-only annuity if the employee or Member is retiring based on a separation from a position under CSRS on or after October 11, 1962. The maximum rate of a current spouse annuity is 50 percent of the rate of the retiring employee's or Member's self-only annuity if the employee or Member is retiring based on a separation from a position covered under CSRS between September 30, 1956, and October 11, 1962.

(d)(1) The amount of the reduction to provide a current spouse annuity equals 2½ percent of the first $3600 of the designated survivor base plus 10 percent of the portion of the designated survivor base which exceeds $3600, if—

(i) The employee's or Member's separation on which the retirement is based was on or after October 11, 1962; or

(ii) The reduction is to provide a current spouse annuity (under § 831.631) for a spouse acquired after retirement.

(2) The amount of the reduction to provide a current spouse annuity under this section for former employees or Members whose retirement is based on separations before October 11, 1962, equals 2½ percent of the first $2400 of the designated survivor base plus 10 percent of the portion of the designated survivor base which exceeds $2400.

[50 FR 20070, May 13, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 31931, Sept. 8, 1986; 58 FR 52880, Oct. 13, 1993. Redesignated at 58 FR 52882, Oct. 13, 1993]

EDITORIAL NOTE: At 58 FR 52880, Oct. 13, 1993, in § 831.604, paragraph (b) was amended by changing the reference ''831.608'' and paragraph (c) was amended by changing the reference ''831.614''. However, neither of these references exist in their respective paragraphs in the 1993 edition of this volume.

§ 831.612 Election at time of retirement of a fully reduced annuity or a partially reduced annuity to provide a former spouse annuity.

(a) An unmarried employee or Member retiring under CSRS may elect a fully reduced annuity or a partially reduced annuity to provide a former spouse annuity or annuities.

(b) A married employee or Member retiring under CSRS may elect a fully reduced annuity or a partially reduced annuity to provide a former spouse annuity or annuities instead of a fully reduced annuity to provide a current spouse annuity, if the current spouse consents to the election in accordance with § 831.614 or spousal consent is waived in accordance with § 831.618.

(c) An election under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section is void to the extent that it—

(1) Conflicts with a qualifying court order; or

(2) Would cause the total of current spouse annuities and former spouse annuities payable based on the employee's or Member's service to exceed 55 percent (or 50 percent if based on a separation before October 11, 1962) of the self-only annuity to which the employee or Member would be entitled.

(d) Any reduction in an annuity to provide a former spouse annuity will terminate on the first day of the