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(c) If interest is applicable, it shall be computed in accordance with instructions published by OPM in the Federal Personnel Manual.

(d) The agency, Clerk of the House of Representatives, or Secretary of the Senate shall establish a deposit account showing the total amount due, and a payment schedule (unless deposit is made in a lump sum), and record the date and amount of each payment.

(e) An individual who is eligible to make deposit to OPM shall submit an application to make deposit, accompanied by a copy of his or her DD 214(s) or its (their) equivalent(s), as well as sufficient evidence of basic pay, if available, or a statement of estimated earnings, to OPM.

§831.2107 Payments on deposits.

(a) Deposits made to agencies, the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate.

(1) Deposits made to agencies, the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate shall be collected in full in one lump sum whenever this is possible. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, a separated employee who, through administrative error, did not make or complete the deposit prior to his or her separation must complete the deposit in a lump sum within the time limit set by OPM when it rules that an administrative error has been made.

(2) If the employee or Member cannot make payment in a lump sum, the agency, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or the Secretary of the Senate shall accept installment payments (by allotments or otherwise). However, agencies, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Senate will not be required to accept individual checks in amounts of less than $50.

(3) If the employee or Member dies, the employing agency, the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate shall advise the survivor of the right to make or complete a deposit. If the survivor decides to make or complete the payment, the agency, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or the Secretary of the Senate shall collect the amount due in one lump sum.

(4) Payments received by the employing agency, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or the Secretary of the Senate shall be remitted immediately to OPM for deposit to the Fund.

(5) Once the employee's, Member's, or survivor's deposit has been paid in full or closed out, the employing agency, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or the Secretary of the Senate shall submit documentation pertaining to the deposit to OPM, in accordance with instructions published in the Federal Personnel Manual.

(6) Deposits must be made for full periods of service.

(b) Deposits made to OPM.

(1) Deposits made to OPM shall be made in a lump sum prior to final adjudication of the application for retirement or survivor benefits.

(2) Deposits must be made for full periods of service.

[48 FR 38788, Aug. 26, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 20631, May 16, 1984]

Subpart V—Alternative Forms of Annuities

SOURCE: 51 FR 42989, Nov. 28, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

§831.2201 Purpose.

This subpart explains the benefits available to employees and Members who elect an alternative form of annuity under section 8343a of title 5, United States Code.

§831.2202 Definitions.

In this subpart—

Alternative form of annuity means the benefit elected under §831.2204.

Current spouse annuity has the same meaning as in §831.603.

Date of final adjudication means the date 30 days after the date of the first regular monthly payment as defined in §831.603.

Former spouse annuity has the same meaning as in §831.603.

Lump-sum credit has the same meaning as in 5 U.S.C. 8331(8).

Present value factor represents the amount of money (earning interest at an assumed rate) required at the time of retirement to fund an annuity that:

(a) 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 (b) 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 sex-distinct present value factors, weighted by the total dollar value of annuities typically paid to new retirees at each age.

Time of retirement has the same meaning as in § 831.603.

[51 FR 42989, Nov. 28, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 10136, Mar. 10, 1989]

§ 831.2203 Eligibility.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b), (c), and (h) of this section, an employee or Member whose annuity entitlement commences after June 5, 1986, under any provision of subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code (other than section 8337 of that title), may elect an alternative form of annuity instead of any other benefits under the subchapter.

(b) An employee or Member who, at the time of retirement has a former spouse who is entitled to a portion of the employee's or Member's retirement benefits or a former spouse annuity under a court order acceptable for processing as defined by § 838.103 of this chapter or under a qualifying court order as defined in § 838.1003 of this chapter may not elect an alternative form of annuity.

(c) An employee or Member who is married at the time of retirement may not elect an alternative form of annuity unless the employee's or Member's spouse specifically consents to the election before the date of final adjudication. OPM may waive spousal consent only under the conditions prescribed by § 831.618.

(d) The election of an alternative form of annuity and evidence of spousal consent must be filed on a form prescribed by OPM. The form will require that a notary public or other official authorized to administer oaths certify that the current spouse presented identification, gave consent to the specific election as executed by the retiree, signed or marked the form, and acknowledged that the consent was given freely in the notary's or official's presence.

(e) An election of the alternative form of annuity must be in writing and received by OPM on or before the date of final adjudication. After the date of final adjudication, an election of the alternative form of annuity is irrevocable.

(f) Except as provided in paragraph (g), an annuitant who dies before the date of final adjudication is deemed to have made an affirmative election under paragraph (a) with a fully reduced annuity to provide a current spouse annuity, regardless of any election completed under § 831.614, and the lump-sum credit will be paid in accordance with the order of precedence established under 5 U.S.C. 8342(c).

(g) If an annuitant described in paragraph (f) has completed an election under § 831.611(a) or (b)—

(1) The lump-sum credit will be paid in accordance with the order of precedence established under 5 U.S.C. 8342(c); and

(2) The election under § 831.611(a) or (b) will be honored.

(h)(1)(i) An individual whose annuity commences after December 1, 1990, and before October 1, 1994, may elect an alternative form of annuity only if that individual is—

(A) An employee or Member who meets the conditions and fulfills the requirements described in § 831.2207(c) (2) and (3); or

(B) An employee who is separated involuntarily other than for cause on charges of misconduct or delinquency;

(ii) An individual whose annuity commences on or after October 1, 1994, may elect an alternative form of annuity only if that individual is an employee or Member who meets the conditions and fulfills the requirements described in § 831.2207(c) (2) and (3).

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (h)(1)(i)(B) of this section, the term ''employee'' does not include—

(i) Members of Congress;

(ii) Individuals in positions in the Executive Schedule under sections 5312 through 5317 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) Presidential appointees under section 105(a)(1), 106(a)(1), or 107 (a)(1) or (b)(1) of title 3, United States Code, if the maximum basic pay for such positions is at or above the rate for Executive Schedule, level V;

(iv) Noncareer appointees in the Senior Executive Service or noncareer members of the Senior Foreign Service; and

(v) Any individual in a position that is excepted from the competitive service because of its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (h)(1) of this section, an employee whose annuity commences after December 1, 1990, and before December 2, 1991, may elect an alternative form of annuity if that individual—

(i)(A) Was ordered to active military duty (other than for training) before December 1, 1990, in connection with Operation Desert Shield; or

(B) Is an employee of the Department of Defense who is certified by the Secretary of Defense to have performed, after November 30, 1990, duties essential to support Operation Desert Shield, and the certification is submitted to OPM in a form prescribed by OPM; and

(ii) Would have been eligible, as of November 30, 1990, to elect an alternative form of annuity under paragraph (a) of this section.

[51 FR 42989, Nov. 28, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 11634, Apr. 8, 1988; 56 FR 6551, Feb. 19, 1991; 57 FR 33598, July 29, 1992; 58 FR 52882, Oct. 13, 1993; 60 FR 54586, 54587, Oct. 25, 1995]

§831.2204 Alternative forms of annuities available.

(a) An employee or Member who is eligible to make an election under §831.2203 may elect to receive his or her lump-sum credit plus an annuity computed in accordance with section 8339 of title 5, United States Code, for which they qualify (including any reduction for survivor benefits) and reduced under §831.2205.

(b) A retired employee or Member who elected an alternative form of annuity is subject to all provisions of subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, as would otherwise apply to a retired employee or Member who did not elect an alternative form of annuity, except that an individual who elected an alternative form of annuity is not eligible to apply for disability annuity under section 8337 of such subchapter.

[51 FR 42989, Nov. 28, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 11634, Apr. 8, 1988; 54 FR 10136, Mar. 10, 1989]

§831.2205 Computation of alternative form of annuity.

(a) To compute the beginning rate of annuity payable to a retiree who elects an alternative form of annuity, OPM will first compute the monthly rate of annuity otherwise payable under subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, including all reductions provided under the subchapter other than those in §8343a. That monthly rate is then reduced by an amount equal to the retiree's lump-sum credit divided by the present value factor for the retiree's attained age (in full years) at the time of retirement. The reduced monthly rate is then rounded to the next lowest dollar and becomes the rate of annuity payable.

(b) OPM will publish a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER announcing any proposed ajustments in present value factors at least 30 days before the effective date of the adjustments.

§831.2206 Election to pay deposit or redeposit for civilian service.

(a) If an employee or Member who elects an alternative form of annuity owes a deposit or redeposit for civilian service, and elects to pay that deposit or redeposit before the date of final adjudication, OPM will compute the annuity as if the deposit or redeposit had been made and will deem that deposit or redeposit to be included in the lump-sum credit for the purpose of computing the reduction in annuity under §831.2205.

(b) The amount of a deposit or redeposit deemed paid under paragraph (a) of this section will include any interest owed by the employee or Member under 5 U.S.C. 8334.

(c) For the purpose of paragraph (a) of this section, ''redeposit'' does not include a redeposit owed for service for which credit is allowed pursuant to § 831.303(c)(1).

[54 FR 10136, Mar. 10, 1989, as amended at 56 FR 43865, Sept. 5, 1991]

§ 831.2207 Partial deferred payment of the lump-sum credit if annuity commences after January 3, 1988, and before October 1, 1989.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, if the annuity of an employee or Member commences after January 3, 1988, and before October 1, 1989, the lump-sum credit payable under § 831.2204 is payable to the individual, or his or her survivors, according to the following schedule:

(1) Sixty percent of the lump-sum credit is payable at the time of retirement, and

(2) Forty percent is payable, with interest determined under section 8334(e)(3) of title 5, United States Code, one year after the time of retirement.

(b) If an employee or Member whose annuity commences after January 3, 1988, and before October 1, 1989, dies before the date of final adjudication, that individual is subject to § 831.2203 (f) or (g), but the lump-sum credit will be paid in accordance with the schedule in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) An annuitant is exempt from the deferred payment schedule under paragraph (a) of this section if the individual—

(1) Separates involuntarily, other than for cause on charges of delinquency or misconduct, or

(2) Has, at the time of retirement, a life-threatening affliction or other critical medical condition.

(3)(i) For the purpose of this section, *life-threatening affliction or other critical medical condition* means a medical condition so severe as to reasonably limit an individual's probable life expectancy to less than 2 years.

(ii) The existence of one of the following medical conditions is *prima facie* evidence of a life threatening affliction or other critical medical condition:

(A) Metastatic and/or inoperable neoplasms.

(B) Aortic stenosis (severe).

(C) Class IV cardiac disease with congestive heart failure.

(D) Respiratory failure.

(E) Cor pulmonale with respiratory failure.

(F) Emphysema with respiratory failure.

(G) [Reserved].

(H) Severe cardiomyopathy—Class IV.

(I) Aplastic anemia.

(J) Uncontrolled hypertension with hypertensive encephalopathy.

(K) Cardiac aneurysm not amenable to surgical treatment.

(L) Agranulocytosis.

(M) Severe hepatic failure.

(N) Severe Hypoxic brain damage.

(O) Severe portal hypertension with esophageal varices.

(P) AIDS (Active—Not AIDS Related Complex or only seropositivity).

(Q) Life threatening infections (encephalitis, meningitis, rabies, etc.).

(R) Scleroderma with severe esophageal involvement.

(S) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (rapidly progressive).

(T) Hemiplegia with life threatening complications.

(U) Quadriplegia with life threatening complications.

(iii) Evidence of the existence of a life-threatening affliction or other critical medical condition must be certified by a physician and sent to OPM on or before the date the annuitant elects to receive an alternative form of annuity. For the purpose of this section, ''physician'' has the same meaning given that term in § 339.102 of this chapter.

(iv) If a medical condition other than those listed in paragraph (c)(3)(ii) of this section is claimed as a basis for exemption from the deferred payment schedule, OPM will review the physician's certification to determine whether the cited condition is life-threatening or critical.

(v) The cost of providing medical documentation under this paragraph rests with the employee or Member, unless OPM exercises its choice of physician.

[53 FR 11634, Apr. 8, 1988, as amended at 60 FR 54586, Oct. 25, 1995]

§831.2208 Partial deferred payment of the lump-sum credit if annuity commences after December 2, 1989, and before October 1, 1995.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, if the annuity of a retiree commences after December 2, 1989, and before October 1, 1994, the lump-sum credit payable under §831.2204 is payable to the individual, or his or her survivors, according to the following schedule:

(1) Fifty percent of the lump-sum credit is payable at the time of retirement, and

(2) Fifty percent is payable, with interest determined under section 8334(e)(3) of title 5, United States Code, 1 year after the time of retirement, except if the payment date of the amount specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section was after December 4, 1989, payment with interest will be made in the calendar year following the calendar year in which the payment specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section was made.

(b) If a retiree whose annuity commences after December 2, 1989, and before October 1, 1994, and who is otherwise entitled to a computation under this subpart, dies before the date of final adjudication, that individual is subject to §831.2203 (f) or (g), but the lump-sum credit will be paid in accordance with the schedule in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c)(1) A retiree is exempt from the deferred payment schedule under paragraph (a) of this section if the individual meets the conditions, and fulfills the requirements, described in §831.2207(c).

(2)(i) A retiree who is exempt from the deferred payment schedule may waive that exemption by notifying OPM, in writing, on or before the date he or she elects to receive the alternative form of annuity.

(ii) Paragraph (c)(2)(i) of this section does not apply to an individual whose annuity commences after December 1, 1990, if that individual's eligibility to elect an alternative form of annuity is pursuant to §831.2203(h)(1)(i)(A).

(iii) A waiver under paragraph (c)(2)(i) of this section cannot be revoked.

[56 FR 6551, Feb. 19, 1991, as amended at 56 FR 43865, Sept. 5, 1991; 60 FR 54587, Oct. 25, 1995]

§831.2209 Redetermined annuity after reemployment.

(a) For purposes of this section, ''lump-sum credit'' does not include—

(1) The amount by which the lump-sum credit attributable to service performed before the annuitant's first retirement was reduced by annuity payments that were not reimbursed by the employing agency under section 8344(a) of title 5, United States Code, or

(2) Any part of the lump-sum credit attributable to service performed before the annuitant's first retirement that has already been paid to the annuitant pursuant to an election or an alternative form of annuity.

(b) An annuitant who meets the requirements for a redetermined annuity under subpart H, and who meets all requirements of §831.2203, may elect an alternative form of annuity.

(c) To compute the beginning rate of the redetermined annuity payable to an annuitant who elects an alternative form of annuity, OPM will first compute the monthly rate payable under subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, including all reductions provided under the subchapter other than those in section 8343a. That monthly rate is then reduced by the sum of—

(1)(i) Any reduction that was computed under §831.2205 at the time of the annuitant's prior retirement, increased by—

(ii) All cost-of-living adjustments under section 8340 of title 5, United States Code that applied to the annuitant before the commencing date of the redetermined annuity, and

(2) An amount equal to the annuitant's lump-sum credit, divided by the present value factor for the annuitant's attained age on the date the redetermined annuity commences.

(d) The beginning rate of a redetermined annuity payable to an annuitant who does not elect, or is not eligible to elect, an alternative form of annuity

will be reduced in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

[54 FR 10136, Mar. 10, 1989. Redesignated at 55 FR 4597, Feb. 9, 1990]

PART 835—DEBT COLLECTION

Subparts A–E—[Reserved]

Subpart F—Collection of Debts by Federal Tax Refund Offset

Sec.
835.601 Purpose.
835.602 Past-due legally enforceable debt.
835.603 Notification of intent to collect.
835.604 Reasonable attempt to notify.
835.605 OPM action as a result of consideration of evidence submitted as a result of the notice of intent.
835.606 Change in notification to Internal Revenue Service.
835.607 Administrative charges.

AUTHORITY 5 U.S.C. 8347(a) and 8461(g). Subpart F also issued under 31 U.S.C. 3720A.

SOURCE: 57 FR 61771, Dec. 29, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

Subparts A–E—[Reserved]

Subpart F—Collection of Debts by Federal Tax Refund Offset

§ 835.601 Purpose.

This subpart establishes procedures for OPM to refer past-due legally enforceable debts to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for offset against the income tax refunds of persons owing debts to OPM. It specifies the agency procedures and the rights of the debtor applicable to claims referred under the Federal Tax Refund Offset Program for the collection of debts owed to OPM.

§ 835.602 Past-due legally enforceable debt.

A past-due legally enforceable debt for referral to the IRS is a debt that—

(a) Resulted from—

(1) Erroneous payments made under the Civil Service Retirement or the Federal Employees' Retirement Systems; or

(2) Unpaid health or life insurance premiums due under the Federal Employees' Health Benefits or Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Programs; or

(3) Any other statute administered by OPM;

(b) Is an obligation of a debtor who is a natural person;

(c) Except in the case of a judgment debt, has been delinquent at least 3 months but not more than 10 years at the time the offset is made;

(d) Is at least $25.00;

(e) With respect to which the individual's rights described in 5 CFR 831.1301 through 831.1309 have been exhausted;

(f) With respect to which either:

(1) OPM's records do not contain evidence that the person owing the debt (or his or her spouse) has filed for bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code; or

(2) OPM can clearly establish at the time of the referral that the automatic stay under 11 U.S.C. 362 has been lifted or is no longer in effect with respect to the person owing the debt or his or her spouse, and the debt was not discharged in the bankruptcy proceeding;

(g) Cannot currently be collected under the salary offset provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5514(a)(1);

(h) Is not eligible for administrative offset under 31 U.S.C. 3716(a) because of 31 U.S.C. 3716(c)(2), or cannot currently be collected as an administrative offset by OPM under 31 U.S.C. 3716(a) against amounts payable to the debtor by OPM; and

(i) Has been disclosed by OPM to a consumer reporting agency as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 3711(f), unless the consumer reporting agency would be prohibited from reporting information concerning the debt by reason of 15 U.S.C. 1681c, or unless the amount of the debt does not exceed $100.

§ 835.603 Notification of intent to collect.

(a) *Notification before submission to the IRS.* A request for reduction of an IRS income tax refund will be made only after OPM makes a determination that an amount is owed and past-due and gives or makes a reasonable attempt to give the debtor 60 days written notice of the intent to collect by IRS tax refund offset.

(b) *Contents of notice.* OPM's notice of intention to collect by IRS tax refund offset (Notice of Intent) will state:

(1) The amount of the debt;