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during earlier employment he/she filed an election or declination which remains in effect. The 31-day time limit begins to run on the first day after February 28, 1981, on which an individual meets the definition of an employee.

(b) On a determination by an employing office, within six months after an employee becomes eligible, that he/she was unable, for cause beyond his/her control to elect or decline the family optional insurance within the prescribed time limit, the employee shall elect or decline the family optional insurance within 31 days after he/she is advised of that determination. Family optional insurance in that case is retroactive to the first day of the first pay period beginning after the date the person became eligible, or after April 1, 1981, whichever is later, and the person shall pay the full cost of the insurance from that date for the time that he/she is in a pay status or retired or in receipt of compensation and under age 65.

(c) A person who does not file with his/her employing office an election of family optional insurance on the Life Insurance Election form does not have the family optional insurance.

§873.203 Effective date of insurance.

(a) The effective date of an election of family optional insurance is the first day on or after April 1, 1981, that an employee actually enters on duty in a pay status on or after the day the election is received in his/her employing office.

(b) An election of family optional insurance remains in effect until canceled as provided in §873.204. For an employee whose family optional insurance has stopped for a reason other than a declination or waiver, family optional insurance is reinstated on the first day he/she actually enters on duty in a pay status in a position in which he/she again becomes eligible.

(c) An open enrollment election of family optional insurance filed during the period from March 29 through April 30, 1993, is effective on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after May 30, 1993, which immediately follows a pay period during which the employee was in a pay and duty status for at least 32 hours. A part-time employee will need to have been in a pay and duty status for one-half of the regularly-scheduled tour of duty indicated on his or her current Standard Form 50 for newly-elected coverage to become effective. An employee who has no regularly-scheduled tour of duty or who is employed on an intermittent basis will have to have been in a pay and duty status for one-half of the hours customarily worked before newly-elected coverage can become effective. For the purpose of this subsection, employing offices can determine the number of hours customarily worked by averaging the number of hours worked in the calendar year quarter ending March 30, 1993.

[49 FR 3045, Jan. 25, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 26689, June 28, 1985; 58 FR 11954, Mar. 2, 1993]

§873.204 Declination.

(a) An insured person may cancel his/her family optional insurance at any time by filing a declination of family optional insurance or a waiver of basic insurance coverage. An employee files with the employing office. An annuitant files with OPM or other office which administers his/her retirement system. If still employed, a compensationer files with the employing office, and, if not still employed, with OWCP.

(b) A cancellation of family optional insurance becomes effective and family optional insurance stops at the end of the pay period in which the declination of waiver is properly filed, except that at the request of the employee or annuitant and upon proof satisfactory to the employing office that there was no family member eligible for coverage, the effective date of the cancellation may be made retroactive to the end of the pay period in which there ceased to be eligible family members.

(c) A declination of family optional insurance remains in effect until it is canceled as provided in §873.205.

[49 FR 3045, Jan. 25, 1984, as amended at 51 FR 36796, Oct. 16, 1986]

§873.205 Cancellation of declination.

(a) An employee who has declined the family optional insurance may elect it upon his or her marriage or divorce, or

upon the acquisition of an unmarried dependent child, or upon a spouse's death, if the enrollee has any dependent children. In order to be valid, the election must be filed with the employing office on the Life Insurance Election form no later than 60 days following the date of the event which permits the election. This 60-day time limit may be extended if the individual is not serving in a covered position on the date of the event, if the invididual separates from covered service prior to completion of the 60-day time limit, or if the event occurs during the period following a waiver of basic insurance when he/she is not eligible to cancel the waiver. This extension of the time may not exceed the 31-day time limit for electing insurance following employment in a covered position, or the 31-day period following the first day on which the individual becomes eligible to cancel a waiver of basic insurance.

(b) The effective date of an election under paragraph (a) of this section is the day the employing office receives the election and basic insurance is in force.

(c) An annuitant or compensationer is not eligible to make the election provided in paragraph (a) of this section.

(d)(1) A previous declination or waiver is automatically canceled at time or reinstatement on or after April 1, 1981, if an employee has been separated from service for at least 180 days. If no new declination is filed, family optional insurance coverage is effective on the date the employee actually enters on duty in a pay status in a position wherein he/she is not excluded from insurance by law or regulation, provided that the employee has filed an affirmative election of family optional insurance on the Life Insurance Election form. An employee whose declination is so canceled and who does not file the form with his/her employing office within 31 days after reinstatement shall be deemed to have declined family optional insurance, except that an employee who fails to file the form during that period due to cause beyond his/her control shall be allowed to enroll belatedly under the conditions prescribed under §873.202(b).

(2) An employee who returned to Federal service between April 1, 1981, and December 8, 1983, after a 180-day break in service may elect family optional insurance upon application to his or her employing office before March 7, 1984.

(e)(1) An open enrollment period will be held from March 29 through April 30, 1993, during which time employees otherwise eligible for coverage may cancel their existing declinations of coverage by affirmatively electing to be insured on a form designated by OPM.

(2) An employing office may make a determination, within 6 months after the March 29 through April 30, 1993 open enrollment period, that an employee was unable, for cause beyond his or her control, to cancel his or her then existing declination of coverage by affirmatively electing to be insured during the 1993 open enrollment period. The employee shall be permitted to submit an affirmative election of coverage within 31 days after he or she is advised of that determination. Family optional insurance coverage in that case is retroactive to the first pay period beginning on or after May 30, 1993, which immediately follows a pay period during which the employee was in a pay and duty status for a sufficient length of time, as specified in §873.203(c) to acquire coverage. Failure on the part of the employee to file an election within the 31 days prescribed in this paragraph shall be deemed a declination of family optional insurance.

[49 FR 3045, Jan. 25, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 26689, June 28, 1985; 54 FR 13666, Apr. 5, 1989, and 54 FR 37093, Sept. 7, 1989; 58 FR 11954, Mar. 2, 1993; 58 FR 45415, Aug. 30, 1993]

Subpart C—Amount of Insurance

§873.301 Amount of employee's insurance.

The amount of family optional insurance is $5,000 payable upon the death of a spouse and $2,500 payable upon the death of a child.

Subpart D—Withholdings

§873.401 Withholdings.

(a) During any period in any part of which an insured employee is in a pay status, the employing agency shall