

## Railroad Retirement Board

## § 217.17

expenses dies before applying for the lump-sum death payment under part 234 of this chapter. The application must be filed within the two-year period shown in § 217.9 (c)(1).

(c) A widow(er) or surviving divorced spouse may file an application for a spouse or divorced spouse annuity after the death of the employee if the widow(er) or surviving divorced spouse was eligible for a spouse or divorced spouse annuity in any month before the month the employee died. The spouse or divorced spouse annuity is payable from the beginning date set forth in part 218 of this chapter.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control numbers 3220-0031 and 3220-0032)

[47 FR 7647, Feb. 22, 1982, as amended at 52 FR 11017, Apr. 6, 1987; 54 FR 13364, Apr. 3, 1989]

### § 217.11 “Good cause” for delay in filing application.

(a) An applicant has “good cause” for a delay in the filing of an application for a lump-sum death payment or an annuity unpaid at death, as shown in § 217.9(c)(1) and (2), if the delay was due to—

(1) Circumstances beyond the applicant’s control, such as extended illness, mental or physical incapacity, or communication difficulties; or

(2) Incorrect or incomplete information furnished by the Board; or

(3) Efforts by the applicant to secure evidence without realizing that evidence could be submitted after filing an application; or

(4) Unusual or unavoidable circumstances which show that the applicant could not reasonably be expected to have been aware of the need to file an application within the set time limit.

(b) An applicant does not have good cause for a delay in filing if he or she was informed of the need to file within the set time limit but neglected to do so or decided not to file.

## Subpart C—Filing An Application

### § 217.15 Where to file.

(a) *Applicant in U.S. or Canada.* An applicant who lives in the United States or Canada may file an applica-

tion at any Board office in person or by mail. An applicant may also give the application to any Board field employee who is authorized to receive it at a place other than a Board office.

(b) *Application outside U.S.* An applicant who lives outside the United States or Canada may file an application at any United States Foreign Service office. An applicant may also send the application to an office of the Board.

### § 217.16 Filing date.

An application filed in a manner and form acceptable to the Board is officially filed with the Board on the earliest of the following dates:

(a) On the date it is received at a Board office.

(b) On the date it is delivered to a field employee of the Board as described in § 217.15.

(c) On the date it is received at any office of the U.S. Foreign Service.

(d) On the date the application was mailed, as shown by the postmark, if using the date it is received will result in the loss or reduction of benefits.

(e) On the date the Social Security Administration considers the application filed, if it is filed with the Social Security Administration or the Veterans Administration.

### § 217.17 Who may sign an application.

An application may be signed according to the following rules:

(a) A claimant who is 18 years old or older, competent (able to handle his or her own affairs), and physically able to sign the application, must sign in his or her own handwriting, except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section. A parent or a person standing in place of a parent must sign the application for a child who is not yet 18 years old, except as shown in paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) A claimant who is unable to write must make his or her mark. A Board representative or two other persons must sign as witnesses to a signature by mark.

(c) A claimant’s representative, as described in part 266 of this chapter, must sign the application if the claimant is incompetent (unable to handle his or her own affairs).