§ 831.614 Election of a self-only annuity or partially reduced annuity by married employees and Members.

(a) A married employee may not elect a self-only annuity or a partially reduced annuity to provide a current spouse annuity without the consent of the current spouse or a waiver of spousal consent by OPM in accordance with §831.618.

(b) Evidence of spousal consent or a request for waiver of spousal consent must be filed on a form prescribed by OPM.

(c) The form will require that a notary public or other official authorized to administer oaths certify that the current spouse presented identification, gave consent, signed or marked the form, and acknowledged that the consent was given freely in the notary’s or official’s presence.

(d) The form described in paragraph (c) of this section may be executed before a notary public, an official authorized by the law of the jurisdiction where executed to administer oaths, or an OPM employee designated for that purpose by the Associate Director.

§ 831.617 Waiver of spousal consent requirement.

(a) The spousal consent requirement will be waived upon a showing that the spouse’s whereabouts cannot be determined. A request for waiver on this basis must be accompanied by—

(1) A judicial determination that the spouse’s whereabouts cannot be determined; or

(2) (i) Affidavits by the employee or Member and two other persons, at least one of whom is not related to the employee or Member, attesting to the inability to locate the current spouse and stating the efforts made to locate the spouse; and

(ii) Documentary corroboration such as tax returns filed separately or newspaper stories about the spouse’s disappearance.

(b) The spousal consent requirement will be waived based on exceptional circumstances if the employee or Member presents a judicial determination finding that—

(1) The case before the court involves a Federal employee who is in the process of retiring from Federal employment and the spouse of that employee;

(2) The nonemployee spouse has been given notice and an opportunity to be heard concerning this order;

(3) The court has considered sections 8339(j)(1) of title 5, United States Code, and this section as they relate to waiver of the spousal consent requirement for a married Federal employee to elect an annuity without a reduction to provide a survivor benefit to a spouse at retirement; and

retires under section 8336 or 8338 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) A retiree who is dropped from the retirement rolls and subsequently gains a new annuity right by fulfilling the requirements of section 8333(b) of title 5, United States Code, is subject to §§831.611 through 831.622 when he or she retires under that new annuity right.

§ 831.618 Elections by previously retired retiree with new title to an annuity.

(a) A reemployed retiree (after 5 or more years of reemployed annuitant service) who elects a redetermined annuity under section 8344 of title 5, United States Code, is subject to §§831.611 through 831.622 at the time of the redetermination.

(b) A disability retiree who recovers from disability or is restored to earning capacity is subject to §§831.611 through 622 at the time that he or she retires under section 8336 or 8338 of title 5, United States Code.

§ 831.619 [Reserved]
(4) The court finds that exceptional circumstances exist justifying waiver of the nonemployee spouse’s consent.

§ 831.622 Changes of election after final adjudication.

(a) Except as provided in section 8339 (j) or (k) of title 5, United States Code, or §§ 831.662, 831.684, 831.685, or paragraph (b) of this section, an employee or Member may not revoke or change the election or name another survivor later than 30 days after the date of the first regular monthly payment.

(b)(1) Except as provided in §831.613 and paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(3) of this section, a retiree who was married at the time of retirement and has elected a self-only annuity, or a partially reduced annuity to provide a current spouse annuity, or a fully reduced annuity or a partially reduced annuity to provide a former spouse annuity, or an insurable interest annuity may elect, no later than 18 months after the date of retirement, an annuity reduction or an increased annuity reduction to provide a current spouse annuity.

(2) A current spouse annuity based on an election under paragraph (b)(1) of this section cannot be paid if it will, when combined with any former spouse annuity or annuities that are required by court order, exceed the maximum survivor annuity permitted under §831.641.

(3) To make an election under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the retiree must pay, in full, a deposit determined under §831.662, plus interest, at the rate provided under §831.105(g), no later than 18 months after the date of retirement.

(4) If a retiree makes an election under paragraph (b)(1) of this section and is prevented from paying the deposit within the 18-month time limit because OPM did not send him or her a notice of the amount of the deposit at least 30 days before the time limit expires, the time limit for making the deposit will be extended to 30 days after OPM sends the notice of the amount of the deposit.

(5) An election under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, cancels any spousal consent under §831.611 to the extent of the election.

(6) An election under paragraph (b)(1) of this section is void unless it is filed with OPM before the retiree dies.

(7) If a retiree who had elected a fully reduced annuity or a partially reduced annuity to provide a former spouse annuity or former spouse annuities makes an election under paragraph (b)(1) of this section which would cause the combined current spouse annuity and former spouse annuity (or annuities) to exceed the maximum allowed under §831.641, the former spouse annuity (or annuities) must be reduced to not exceed the maximum allowable under §831.641.