

(C) \$2,700 divided by the number of children; subject to section 8340 of this title. If the employee or Member is not survived by a spouse or a former spouse who is the natural or adoptive parent of a surviving child of the employee or Member, that surviving child is entitled to an annuity equal to the smallest of—

(i) 75 percent of the average pay of the employee or Member divided by the number of children;

(ii) \$1,080; or

(iii) \$3,240 divided by the number of children;

subject to section 8340 of this title.

(3) The annuity of a child under this subchapter or under the Act of May 29, 1930, as amended from and after February 28, 1948, commences on the day after the employee or Member dies, or commences or resumes on the first day of the month in which the child later becomes or again becomes a student as described by subsection (a)(3) of this section, if any lump sum paid is returned to the Fund. This annuity and the right thereto terminate on the last day of the month before the child—

(A) becomes 18 years of age unless he is then a student as described or incapable of self-support;

(B) becomes capable of self-support after becoming 18 years of age unless he is then such a student;

(C) becomes 22 years of age if he is then such a student and capable of self-support;

(D) ceases to be such a student after becoming 18 years of age unless he is then incapable of self-support; or

(E) dies or marries;

whichever first occurs. On the death of the surviving spouse or former spouse or termination of the annuity of a child, the annuity of any other child or children shall be recomputed and paid as though the spouse, former spouse, or child had not survived the employee or Member.

(4) If the annuity of a child under this subchapter terminates under paragraph (3)(E) because of marriage, then, if such marriage ends, such annuity shall resume on the first day of the month in which it ends, but only if—

(A) any lump sum paid is returned to the Fund; and

(B) that individual is not otherwise ineligible for such annuity.

(f) If a Member heretofore or hereafter separated from the service with title to deferred annuity from the Fund hereafter dies before having established a valid claim for annuity and is survived by a spouse to whom married at the date of separation, the surviving spouse—

(1) is entitled to an annuity equal to 55 percent of the deferred annuity of the Member commencing on the day after the Member dies and terminating on the last day of the month before the surviving spouse dies or remarries; or

(2) may elect to receive the lump-sum credit instead of annuity if the spouse is the individual who would be entitled to the lump-sum credit and files application therefor with the Office before the award of the annuity.

Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, an annuity payable under this subsection to the sur-

ving spouse of a Member may not exceed the difference between—

(A) the annuity which would otherwise be payable to such surviving spouse under this subsection, and

(B) the amount of the survivor annuity payable to any former spouse of such Member under subsection (h) of this section.

(g) In the case of a surviving spouse whose annuity under this section is terminated because of remarriage before becoming 55 years of age, annuity at the same rate shall be restored commencing on the day the remarriage is dissolved by death, annulment, or divorce, if—

(1) the surviving spouse elects to receive this annuity instead of a survivor benefit to which he may be entitled, under this subchapter or another retirement system for Government employees, by reason of the remarriage; and

(2) any lump sum paid on termination of the annuity is returned to the Fund.

(h)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) through (5) of this subsection, a former spouse of a deceased employee, Member, annuitant, or former Member who was separated from the service with title to a deferred annuity under section 8338(b) of this title is entitled to a survivor annuity under this subsection, if and to the extent expressly provided for in an election under section 8339(j)(3) of this title, or in the terms of any decree of divorce or annulment or any court order or court-approved property settlement agreement incident to such decree.

(2)(A) The annuity payable to a former spouse under this subsection may not exceed the difference between—

(i) the amount applicable in the case of such former spouse, as determined under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, and

(ii) the amount of any annuity payable under this subsection to any other former spouse of the employee, Member, or annuitant, based on an election previously made under section 8339(j)(3) of this title, or a court order previously issued.

(B) The applicable amount, for purposes of subparagraph (A)(i) of this paragraph in the case of a former spouse, is the amount which would be applicable—

(i) under subsection (b)(4)(A) of this section in the case of a widow or widower, if the deceased was an employee or Member who died after retirement;

(ii) under subparagraph (A) of subsection (d) of this section in the case of a widow or widower, if the deceased was an employee or Member described in the first sentence of such subsection; or

(iii) under subparagraph (A) of subsection (f) of this section in the case of a surviving spouse, if the deceased was a Member described in the first sentence of such subsection.

(3) The commencement and termination of an annuity payable under this subsection shall be governed by the terms of the applicable order, decree, agreement, or election, as the case may be, except that any such annuity—

(A) shall not commence before—

(i) the day after the employee, Member, or annuitant dies, or

(ii) the first day of the second month beginning after the date on which the Office receives written notice of the order, decree, agreement, or election, as the case may be, together with such additional information or documentation as the Office may prescribe,

whichever is later, and
(B) shall terminate—

(i) except as provided in subsection (k), in the case of an annuity computed by reference to clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection, no later than the last day of the month before the former spouse remarries before becoming 55 years of age or dies; or

(ii) in the case of an annuity computed by reference to clause (iii) of such paragraph, no later than the last day of the month before the former spouse remarries or dies.

(4) For purposes of this subchapter, a modification in a decree, order, agreement, or election referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not be effective—

(A) if such modification is made after the retirement or death of the employee or Member concerned, and

(B) to the extent that such modification involves an annuity under this subsection.

(5) For purposes of this subchapter, a decree, order, agreement, or election referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not be effective, in the case of a former spouse, to the extent that it is inconsistent with any joint designation or waiver previously executed with respect to such former spouse under section 8339(j)(1) of this title or a similar prior provision of law.

(6) Any payment under this subsection to a person bars recovery by any other person.

(7) As used in this subsection, "court" means any court of any State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands, and any Indian court.

(i) The requirement in subsections (a)(1)(A) and (a)(2)(A) of this section that the surviving spouse of an employee or Member have been married to such employee or Member for at least 9 months immediately before the employee or Member's death in order to qualify as the widow or widower of such employee or Member shall be deemed satisfied in any case in which the employee or Member dies within the applicable 9-month period, if—

(1) the death of the employee or Member was accidental; or

(2) the surviving spouse of such individual had been previously married to the individual and subsequently divorced, and the aggregate time married is at least 9 months.

(k)(1)¹ Subsections (b)(3)(B), (d)(ii), and (h)(3)(B)(i) (to the extent that they provide for termination of a survivor annuity because of a remarriage before age 55) shall not apply if the

widow, widower, or former spouse was married for at least 30 years to the individual on whose service the survivor annuity is based.

(2) A remarriage described in paragraph (1) shall not be taken into account for purposes of section 8339(j)(5)(B) or (C) or any other provision of this chapter which the Office may by regulation identify in order to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 577; Pub. L. 90-83, §1(80), Sept. 11, 1967, 81 Stat. 216; Pub. L. 91-93, title II, §206, Oct. 20, 1969, 83 Stat. 140; Pub. L. 91-658, §3, Jan. 8, 1971, 84 Stat. 1961; Pub. L. 92-243, §1, Mar. 9, 1972, 86 Stat. 56; Pub. L. 92-297, §7(4), May 16, 1972, 86 Stat. 145; Pub. L. 93-260, §1(a), Apr. 9, 1974, 88 Stat. 76; Pub. L. 94-183, §2(36), Dec. 31, 1975, 89 Stat. 1058; Pub. L. 95-317, §1(b), July 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 382; Pub. L. 95-318, §2, July 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 384; Pub. L. 95-454, title IX, §906(a)(2), (3), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1224; Pub. L. 95-598, title III, §338(c), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2681; Pub. L. 96-179, §1, Jan. 2, 1980, 93 Stat. 1299; Pub. L. 98-353, title I, §112, July 10, 1984, 98 Stat. 343; Pub. L. 98-615, §2(4), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3199; Pub. L. 99-251, title II, §§205-207, Feb. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 25; Pub. L. 99-272, title XV, §15204(a)(2), Apr. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 335; Pub. L. 101-428, §2(d)(7), Oct. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 929; Pub. L. 102-378, §2(63), Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1354; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §633(a)(1)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-362; Pub. L. 105-61, title V, §§516(a)(4), 518(a), Oct. 10, 1997, 111 Stat. 1306, 1307; Pub. L. 106-553, §1(a)(2) [title III, §308(h)(7)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2762, 2762A-89.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
1966 ACT

| Derivation | U.S. Code | Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| (a) | 5 U.S.C. 2251(h)-(j). | July 31, 1956, ch. 804, §401 "Sec. 1(h)-(j)", 70 Stat. 744. Oct. 11, 1962, Pub. L. 87-793, §1103(f)(A), 76 Stat. 871. |
| (b)-(f) | 5 U.S.C. 2260. | July 31, 1956, ch. 804, §401 "Sec. 10", 70 Stat. 754. Aug. 27, 1958, Pub. L. 85-772, §1(b), (c), 72 Stat. 930. Sept. 6, 1960, Pub. L. 86-713, §1(a), 74 Stat. 813. Oct. 11, 1962, Pub. L. 87-793, §1103 (less (a) and (f)(A)), 76 Stat. 870, 871. |

In subsection (b), the words "designated for this purpose under section 8339(i) of this title" are substituted for "designated in writing for such purpose by the employee or Member at the time of retirement" in view of the provisions of section 8339(i).

In subsection (f), the words "heretofore or hereafter" are substituted "either prior to, on, or after the effective date of the Civil Service Retirement Act Amendments of 1956".

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

1967 ACT

| Section of Title 5 | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large) |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 8341(a)(4) ... | 5 App.: 2251(j) (less last sentence). | Apr. 25, 1966, Pub. L. 89-407, §1 (words before 1st comma), 80 Stat. 131. July 18, 1966, Pub. L. 89-504, §502, 80 Stat. 300. |

¹ So in original. No subsec. (j) has been enacted.

as the Office of Personnel Management in its sole discretion considers appropriate.

(1)(1) No payment shall be made from the Fund unless an application for benefits based on the service of an employee or Member is received in the Office of Personnel Management before the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of his birth.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, after the death of an employee, Member, or annuitant, no benefit based on his service shall be paid from the Fund unless an application therefor is received in the Office of Personnel Management within 30 years after the death or other event which gives rise to title to the benefit.

(j)(1) Payments under this subchapter which would otherwise be made to an employee, Member, or annuitant based on service of that individual shall be paid (in whole or in part) by the Office to another person if and to the extent expressly provided for in the terms of—

(A) any court decree of divorce, annulment, or legal separation, or the terms of any court order or court-approved property settlement agreement incident to any court decree of divorce, annulment, or legal separation; or

(B) any court order or other similar process in the nature of garnishment for the enforcement of a judgment rendered against such employee, Member, or annuitant, for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child.

In the event that the Office is served with more than 1 decree, order, or other legal process with respect to the same moneys due or payable to any individual, such moneys shall be available to satisfy such processes on a first-come, first-served basis, with any such process being satisfied out of such moneys as remain after the satisfaction of all such processes which have been previously served.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall only apply to payments made by the Office under this subchapter after the date of receipt in the Office of written notice of such decree, order, other legal process, or agreement, and such additional information and documentation as the Office may prescribe.

(3) For the purpose of this subsection—

(A) the term "court" means any court of any State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands, and any Indian court;

(B) the term "judgment rendered for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child" means any legal claim perfected through a final enforceable judgment, which claim is based in whole or in part upon the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of a child, whether or not that abuse is accompanied by other actionable wrongdoing, such as sexual exploitation or gross negligence; and

(C) the term "child" means an individual under 18 years of age.

(k)(1) The Office shall, in accordance with this subsection, enter into an agreement with any State within 120 days of a request for agreement from the proper State official. The agreement shall provide that the Office shall withhold State income tax in the case of the monthly an-

nunity of any annuitant who voluntarily requests, in writing, such withholding. The amounts withheld during any calendar quarter shall be held in the Fund and disbursed to the States during the month following that calendar quarter.

(2) An annuitant may have in effect at any time only one request for withholding under this subsection, and an annuitant may not have more than two such requests in effect during any one calendar year.

(3) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, an annuitant may change the State designated by that annuitant for purposes of having withholdings made, and may request that the withholdings be remitted in accordance with such change. An annuitant also may revoke any request of that annuitant for withholding. Any change in the State designated or revocation is effective on the first day of the month after the month in which the request or the revocation is processed by the Office, but in no event later than on the first day of the second month beginning after the day on which such request or revocation is received by the Office.

(4) This subsection does not give the consent of the United States to the application of a statute which imposes more burdensome requirements on the United States than on employers generally, or which subjects the United States or any annuitant to a penalty or liability because of this subsection. The Office may not accept pay from a State for services performed in withholding State income taxes from annuities. Any amount erroneously withheld from an annuity and paid to a State by the Office shall be repaid by the State in accordance with regulations issued by the Office.

(5) For the purpose of this subsection, "State" means a State, the District of Columbia, or any territory or possession of the United States.

(l) Transfers of contributions and deposits authorized by section 408(a)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 shall be deemed to be a complete and final payment of benefits under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 89-544, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 582; Pub. L. 93-273, § 1, Apr. 26, 1974, 88 Stat. 93; Pub. L. 94-126, § 1(c), Nov. 12, 1975, 89 Stat. 679; Pub. L. 94-166, § 1, Dec. 23, 1975, 89 Stat. 1002; Pub. L. 94-183, § 1, Dec. 31, 1975, 89 Stat. 1057; Pub. L. 95-366, § 1(a), Sept. 15, 1978, 92 Stat. 600; Pub. L. 95-454, title IX, § 906(a)(2), (3), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1224; Pub. L. 97-35, title XVII, § 1705(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 758; Pub. L. 97-253, title III, §§ 304(b), 305(a), Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 795; Pub. L. 98-615, § 2(6), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3202; Pub. L. 99-251, title III, § 305(a), Feb. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 26; Pub. L. 101-246, title I, § 141(b), Feb. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 35; Pub. L. 103-358, § 2(a), Oct. 14, 1994, 108 Stat. 3420.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Derivation | U.S. Code | Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large |
|------------|----------------|--|
| | 5 U.S.C. 2264. | July 31, 1956, ch. 804, § 401 "Sec. 14", 70 Stat. 757. Sept. 6, 1960, Pub. L. 86-713, § 1(b), 74 Stat. 814. |

In subsection (b), the second sentence of former section 2264(b) is omitted as included in the second sen-

Subsec. (g)(1). Pub. L. 100-238, §131(b)(2), inserted "(or one-half thereof if designated for this purpose under section 8419 of this title)" after "paragraph (2)".

1986—Subsec. (c)(2)(B)(i)(I). Pub. L. 99-556 which directed that subsec. (c)(2)(B)(i)(I) of this section be amended generally was executed to subsec. (c)(2)(B)(i)(I) of this section, as the probable intent of Congress. Prior to the amendment, subcl. (I) read as follows: "on the day after the date on which the former employee or Member would have attained age 62; or".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-61 applicable with respect to remarriages occurring on or after Jan. 1, 1995, see section 518(c) of Pub. L. 105-61, set out as a note under section 8341 of this title.

§ 8443. Rights of a child

(a)(1) If an employee or Member dies after completing at least 18 months of civilian service which is creditable under section 8411, or an annuitant dies, each surviving child is, for any month, entitled to an annuity equal to—

(A) the amount by which the applicable amount under paragraph (2) for such month exceeds the applicable amount under paragraph (3) for such month, divided by

(B) the number of children entitled to a payment under this section for such month.

(2) The applicable amount under this paragraph for any month is the total amount to which the surviving child or children (as the case may be) of the annuitant, employee, or Member would be entitled for such month under subchapter III of chapter 83 (including any adjustment based on section 8340) based on the service of such annuitant, employee, or Member, if the service of such annuitant, employee, or Member were creditable under such subchapter.

(3) The applicable amount under this paragraph for any month is the total amount of child's insurance benefits which are payable (or would, on proper application, be payable) under title II of the Social Security Act for such month based on the wages and self-employment income of such annuitant, employee, or Member.

(b) The annuity of a child under this subchapter—

(1) commences on the day after the annuitant, employee, or Member dies;

(2) commences or resumes on the first day of the month in which the child later becomes or again becomes a student as described by section 8441(4), if any lump sum paid is returned to the Fund; or

(3) commences or resumes on the first day of the month in which the child later becomes or again becomes incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical disability incurred before age 18 (or a later recurrence of such disability), if any lump sum paid is returned to the Fund.

This annuity and the right thereto terminate on the last day of the month before the child—

(A) becomes 18 years of age unless then a student as described or incapable of self-support;

(B) becomes capable of self-support after becoming 18 years of age unless then such a student;

(C) becomes 22 years of age if then such a student and capable of self-support;

(D) ceases to be such a student after becoming 18 years of age unless then incapable of self-support; or

(E) dies or marries;

whichever occurs first. On the death of the surviving wife or husband, or former wife or husband, or termination of the annuity of a child, the annuity of any other child or children shall be recomputed and paid as though the wife or husband, former wife or husband, or child had not survived the annuitant, employee, or Member. If the annuity of a child under this subchapter terminates under subparagraph (E) because of marriage, then, if such marriage ends, such annuity shall resume on the first day of the month in which it ends, but only if any lump sum paid is returned to the Fund, and that individual is not otherwise ineligible for such annuity.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 563; amended Pub. L. 99-556, title I, §117(a), Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3134; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(f) [title VI, §633(a)(2)], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-314, 3009-363.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(3), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as amended. Title II of the Social Security Act is classified generally to subchapter II (§401 et seq.) of chapter 7 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of Title 42 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-208 inserted at end "If the annuity of a child under this subchapter terminates under subparagraph (E) because of marriage, then, if such marriage ends, such annuity shall resume on the first day of the month in which it ends, but only if any lump sum paid is returned to the Fund, and that individual is not otherwise ineligible for such annuity."

1986—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 99-556 inserted "(including any adjustment based on section 8340)".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-208 applicable with respect to termination of marriage taking effect before, on, or after Sept. 30, 1996, except that benefits are payable only with respect to amounts accruing for periods beginning on first day of month beginning after the later of termination of marriage or Sept. 30, 1996, see section 101(f) [title VI, §633(b)] of Pub. L. 104-208, set out as a note under section 8341 of this title.

§ 8444. Rights of a named individual with an insurable interest

The annuity of a survivor named under section 8420(a) is 55 percent of the reduced annuity of the retired employee or Member determined under paragraph (2) of such section 8420(a). The annuity of the survivor commences on the day after the retired employee or Member dies. This annuity and the right thereto terminate on the last day of the month before the survivor dies.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 563.)

§ 8445. Rights of a former spouse

(a) Subject to subsections (b) through (e), a former spouse of a deceased employee, Member,

or annuitant (or of a former employee or Member who dies after having separated from the service with title to a deferred annuity under section 8413 but before having established a valid claim for annuity) is entitled to an annuity under this section, if and to the extent expressly provided for in an election under section 8417(b), or in the terms of any decree of divorce or annulment or any court order or court-approved property settlement agreement incident to such decree.

(b)(1) The annuity payable to a former spouse under this section may not exceed the difference between—

(A) the amount applicable in the case of such former spouse, as determined under paragraph (2); and

(B) the amount of any annuity payable under this section to any other former spouse of the employee, Member, or annuitant, or former employee or Member, based on an election previously made under section 8417(b), or a court order previously issued or agreement previously entered into as described in subsection (a).

(2) The applicable amount, for purposes of paragraph (1)(A) in the case of a former spouse, is the amount of the annuity which would be payable under the provisions of section 8442 (including subsection (f) of such section, but without regard to subsection (h) of such section) if such former spouse were a widow or widower entitled to an annuity under such provisions based on the service of the deceased employee, Member, or annuitant, or former employee or Member.

(c) The commencement and termination of an annuity payable under this section shall be governed by the terms of the applicable order, decree, agreement, or election, as the case may be, except that any such annuity—

(1) shall not commence before—

(A) the day after the employee, Member, or annuitant, or former employee or Member, dies; or

(B) the first day of the second month beginning after the date on which the Office receives written notice of the order, decree, agreement, or election, as the case may be, together with such additional information or documentation as the Office may prescribe;

whichever is later; and

(2) except as provided in subsection (h), shall terminate no later than the last day of the month before the former spouse remarries before becoming 55 years of age or dies.

(d) For purposes of this chapter, a modification in a decree, order, agreement, or election referred to in subsection (a) shall not be effective—

(1) if such modification is made after the retirement or death of the employee, Member, or annuitant, or former employee or Member, concerned; and

(2) to the extent that such modification involves an annuity under this section.

(e) For purposes of this chapter, a decree, order, agreement, or election referred to in sub-

section (a) shall not be effective, in the case of a former spouse, to the extent that it is inconsistent with any joint waiver previously executed with respect to such former spouse under section 8416(a).

(f)(1) Any amount under section 8442(b)(1)(A) which would otherwise be payable to a widow or widower based on the service of another individual shall be paid (in whole or in part) by the Office to a former spouse of such individual if and to the extent expressly provided for in the terms of a court decree of divorce, annulment, or legal separation, or the terms of a court order or court-approved property settlement incident to any decree of divorce, annulment, or legal separation.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall apply only to payments made by the Office after the date of receipt in the Office of written notice of such decree, order, or agreement, and such additional information and documentation as the Office may prescribe.

(g) Any payment under this section to a person bars recovery by any other person.

(h)(1) Subsection (c)(2) (to the extent that it provides for termination of a survivor annuity because of a remarriage before age 55) shall not apply if the former spouse was married for at least 30 years to the individual on whose service the survivor annuity is based.

(2) A remarriage described in paragraph (1) shall not be taken into account for purposes of section 8419(b)(1)(B) or any other provision of this chapter which the Office may by regulation identify in order to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 564; amended Pub. L. 105-61, title V, §518(b)(2), Oct. 10, 1997, 111 Stat. 1308.)

AMENDMENTS

1997—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 105-61, §518(b)(2)(B), substituted “except as provided in subsection (h), shall” for “shall”.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 105-61, §518(b)(2)(A), added subsec. (h).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-61 applicable with respect to remarriages occurring on or after Jan. 1, 1995, see section 518(c) of Pub. L. 105-61, set out as a note under section 8341 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER V—DISABILITY BENEFITS

§ 8451. Disability retirement

(a)(1)(A) An employee who completes at least 18 months of civilian service creditable under section 8411 and has become disabled shall be retired on the employee's own application or on application by the employee's agency.

(B) For purposes of this subsection, an employee shall be considered disabled only if the employee is found by the Office to be unable, because of disease or injury, to render useful and efficient service in the employee's position.

(2)(A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an employee shall not be eligible for disability retirement under this section if the employee has declined a reasonable offer of reassignment to a vacant position in the employee's agency for which the employee is qualified if the position—

mences, as determined by the Department of Labor, shall be refunded to that Department for credit to the Employees' Compensation Fund. Before the individual may receive the annuity, the individual shall—

- (1) refund to the Department of Labor the amount representing the commuted compensation payments for the extended period; or
- (2) authorize the deduction of the amount from the annuity.

Deductions from the annuity may be made from accrued or accruing payments. The amounts deducted and withheld from the annuity shall be transmitted to the Department of Labor for reimbursement to the Employees' Compensation Fund. When the Department of Labor finds that the financial circumstances of an individual entitled to an annuity under subchapter II, IV, or V warrant deferred refunding, deductions from the annuity may be prorated against and paid from accruing payments in such manner as the Department determines appropriate.

(Added Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §124(a)(1)(B), Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1755.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to this section were contained in section 8456 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-238.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 1, 1987, and applicable with respect to benefits payable based on a death or disability occurring on or after that date, see section 124(c) of Pub. L. 100-238 set out as an Effective Date of 1988 Amendment note under section 8337 of this title.

§ 8465. Waiver, allotment, and assignment of benefits

(a) An individual entitled to an annuity payable from the Fund may decline to accept all or any part of the amount of the annuity by a waiver signed and filed with the Office. The waiver may be revoked in writing at any time. Payment of the annuity waived may not be made for the period during which the waiver is in effect.

(b) An individual entitled to an annuity payable from the Fund may make allotments or assignments of amounts from the annuity for such purposes as the Office considers appropriate.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 575.)

§ 8466. Application for benefits

(a) No payment of benefits based on the service of an employee or Member shall be made from the Fund unless an application for payment of the benefits is received by the Office before the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the birth of the employee or Member.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), after the death of an employee, Member, or annuitant, or former employee or Member, a benefit based on the service of such employee, Member, or annuitant, or former employee or Member, shall not be paid under subchapter II or IV of this chapter unless an application therefor is received by the Office within 30 years after the death or other event which establishes the entitlement to the benefit.

(c) Payment due a minor, or an individual mentally incompetent or under other legal disability, may be made to the person who is constituted guardian or other fiduciary by the law of the State of residence of the claimant or is otherwise legally vested with the care of the claimant or his estate. If a guardian or other fiduciary of the individual under legal disability has not been appointed under the law of the State of residence of the claimant, payment may be made to any person who, in the judgment of the Office, is responsible for the care of the claimant, and the payment bars recovery by any other person.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 575.)

§ 8467. Court orders

(a) Payments under this chapter which would otherwise be made to an employee, Member, or annuitant (including an employee, Member, or annuitant as defined in section 8331) based on service of that individual shall be paid (in whole or in part) by the Office or the Executive Director, as the case may be, to another person if and to the extent expressly provided for in the terms of—

- (1) any court decree of divorce, annulment, or legal separation, or the terms of any court order or court-approved property settlement agreement incident to any court decree of divorce, annulment, or legal separation; or
- (2) any court order or other similar process in the nature of garnishment for the enforcement of a judgment rendered against such employee, Member, or annuitant, for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child.

In the event that the Office or the Executive Director, as the case may be, is served with more than 1 decree, order, or other legal process with respect to the same moneys due or payable to any individual, such moneys shall be available to satisfy such processes on a first-come, first-served basis, with any such process being satisfied out of such moneys as remain after the satisfaction of all such processes which have been previously served.

(b) Subsection (a) shall apply only to payments made by the Office or the Executive Director under this chapter after the date on which the Office or the Executive Director (as the case may be) receives written notice of such decree, order, other legal process, or agreement, and such additional information and documentation as the Office or the Executive Director may require.

(c) For the purpose of this section—

- (1) the term "judgment rendered for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child" means any legal claim perfected through a final enforceable judgment, which claim is based in whole or in part upon the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of a child, whether or not that abuse is accompanied by other actionable wrongdoing, such as sexual exploitation or gross negligence; and
- (2) the term "child" means an individual under 18 years of age.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 575; amended Pub. L. 103-358, §2(b)(1)-(3), Oct. 14, 1994, 108 Stat. 3421.)

Subpart B—Procedures for Processing Court Orders Affecting Employee Annuities

REGULATORY STRUCTURE

§ 838.201 Purpose and scope.

(a) This subpart regulates the procedures that the Office of Personnel Management will follow upon the receipt of claims arising out of State court orders directed at employee annuities under CSRS or FERS. OPM must comply with qualifying court orders, decrees, or court-approved property settlements in connection with divorces, annulments of marriages, or legal separations of employees or retirees that award a portion of an employee annuity to a former spouse.

(b) This subpart prescribes—

(1) The circumstances that must occur before employee annuities are available to satisfy a court order acceptable for processing; and

(2) The procedures that a former spouse must follow when applying for a portion of an employee annuity based on a court order under section 8345(j) or section 8467 of title 5, United States Code.

(c)(1) Subpart C of this part contains the rules that a court order must satisfy to be a court order acceptable for processing to affect an employee annuity.

(2) Subpart F of this part contains definitions that OPM uses to determine the effect on employee annuity of a court order acceptable for processing.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

§ 838.211 Amounts subject to court orders.

(a)(1) Employee annuities are subject to court orders acceptable for processing only if all of the conditions necessary for payment of the employee annuity to the former employee have been met, including, but not limited to—

(i) Separation from a position in the Federal service covered by CSRS or FERS under subpart B of part 831 of this chapter or subpart A of part 842 of this chapter, respectively;

(ii) Application for payment of the employee annuity by the former employee; and

(iii) The former employee's immediate entitlement to an employee annuity.

(2) Money held by an employing agency or OPM that may be payable at some future date is not available for payment under court orders directed at employee annuities.

(3) OPM cannot pay a former spouse a portion of an employee annuity before the employee annuity begins to accrue.

(b) Payment to a former spouse under a court order may not exceed the net annuity.

(c) Waivers of employee annuity payments under the terms of section 8345(d) or section 8465(a) of title 5, United States Code, exclude the waived portion of the annuity from availability for payment under a court order if such waivers are postmarked or received before the date that OPM receives a court order acceptable for processing.

APPLICATION AND PROCESSING PROCEDURES

§ 838.221 Application requirements.

(a) A former spouse (personally or through a representative) must apply in writing to be eligible for a court-awarded portion of an employee annuity. No special form is required.

(b) The application letter must be accompanied by—

(1) A certified copy of the court order acceptable for processing that is directed at employee annuity;

(2) A certification from the former spouse or the former spouse's representative that the court order is currently in force and has not been amended, superseded, or set aside;

(3) Information sufficient for OPM to identify the employee or retiree, such as his or her full name, CSRS or FERS claim number, date of birth, and social security number;

(4) The current mailing address of the former spouse; and

(5) If the employee has not retired under CSRS or FERS or died, the mailing address of the employee.

(c)(1) When court-ordered payments are subject to termination (under the terms of the court order) if the former spouse remarries, no payment will be made until the former spouse submits to OPM a statement in the form prescribed by OPM certifying—

(i) That a remarriage has not occurred;

(ii) That the former spouse will notify OPM within 15 calendar days of the occurrence of any remarriage; and

(iii) That the former spouse will be personally liable for any overpayment to him or her resulting from a remarriage.

(2) OPM may subsequently require periodic recertification of the statements required under paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

§ 838.222 OPM action on receipt of a court order acceptable for processing.

(a) If OPM receives a court order acceptable for processing that is directed at an employee annuity that is in pay status, OPM will inform—

(1) The former spouse—

(i) That the court order is acceptable for processing;

(ii) Of the date on which OPM received the court order, the date on which the former spouse's benefit begins to accrue, and if known, the date on which OPM commences payment under the order;

(iii) Of the amount of the former spouse's monthly benefit and the formula OPM used to compute the monthly benefit; and

(iv) That, if he or she disagrees with the amount of the monthly benefits, he or she must obtain, and submit to OPM, an amended court order clarifying the amount; and

(2) The retiree—

(i) That the former spouse has applied for benefits under this subpart;

(ii) That the court order is acceptable for processing and that OPM must comply with the court order;

(iii) Of the date on which OPM received the court order, the date on which the former spouse's benefit begins or accrue, and if known, the date on which OPM commences payment under the court order;

(iv) Of the amount of the former spouse's monthly benefit and the formula OPM used to compute the monthly benefit;

(v) That, if he or she contests the validity of the court order, he or she must obtain, and submit to OPM, a court order invalidating the court order submitted by the former spouse; and

(vi) That, if he or she disagrees with the amount of the former spouse's monthly benefits, he or she must obtain, and submit to OPM, an amended court order clarifying the amount.

(b) If OPM receives a court order acceptable for processing that is directed at an employee annuity but the employee has died, or if a retiree dies after payments from an employee to a former spouse have begun, OPM will inform the former spouse that the employee or retiree has died and that OPM can only honor court orders dividing employee annuities during the lifetime of the retiree.

(c) If OPM receives a court order acceptable for processing that is directed at an employee annuity that is not in pay status, OPM will inform—

(1) The former spouse—

(i) That the court order is acceptable for processing;

(ii) That benefits cannot begin to accrue until the employee retires;

(iii) To the extent possible, the formula that OPM will use to compute the former spouse's monthly benefit; and

(iv) That, if he or she disagrees with the formula, he or she must obtain, and submit to OPM, an amended court order clarifying the amount; and

(2) The employee, separated employee, or retiree—

(i) That the former spouse has applied for benefits under this subpart;

(ii) That the court order is acceptable for processing and that OPM must comply with the court order;

(iii) To the extent possible, the formula that OPM will use to compute the former spouse's monthly benefit;

(iv) That, if he or she contests the validity of the court order, he or she must obtain, and submit to OPM, a court order invalidating the court order submitted by the former spouse; and

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§ 838.423

(2) The procedures that a former spouse must follow when applying for a portion of a refund of employee contributions based on a court order under section 8345(j) or section 8467 of title 5, United States Code.

(c)(1) Subpart E of this part contains the rules that a court order directed at a refund of employee contributions must satisfy to be a court order acceptable for processing.

(2) Subpart F of this part contains definitions that OPM uses to determine the effect on a refund of employee contributions of a court order acceptable for processing.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

§ 838.411 Amounts subject to court orders.

(a)(1) Refunds of employee contributions are subject to court orders acceptable for processing only if all of the conditions necessary for payment of the refund of employee contributions to the separated employee have been met, including, but not limited to—

(i) Separation from a covered position in the Federal service;

(ii) Application for payment of the refund of employee contributions by the separated employee; and

(iii) Immediate entitlement to a refund of employee contributions.

(2) Money held by an employing agency or OPM that may be payable at some future date is not available for payment under court orders directed at refunds of employee contributions.

(b) Payment under a court order may not exceed the amount of the refund of employee contributions.

APPLICATION AND PROCESSING PROCEDURES

§ 838.421 Application requirements.

(a) A former spouse (personally or through a representative) must apply in writing to be eligible for a court-awarded portion of a refund of employee contributions. No special form is required.

(b) The application letter must be accompanied by—

(1) A certified copy of the court order acceptable for processing that is directed at a refund of employee contributions.

(2) A certification from the former spouse or the former spouse's representative that the court order is currently in force and has not been amended, superseded, or set aside;

(3) Information sufficient for OPM to identify the employee or separated employee, such as his or her full name, date of birth, and social security number;

(4) The current mailing address of the former spouse; and

(5) If the employee or separated employee has not applied for a refund of employee contributions, the current mailing address of the employee or separated employee.

§ 838.422 Timeliness of application.

(a) Except as provided in § 838.431 and paragraph (b) of this section, a court order acceptable for processing that is directed at a refund of employee contributions is not effective unless OPM receives the documentation required by § 838.421 not later than—

(1) The last day of the second month before payment of the refund; or

(2) Twenty days after OPM receives the Statement required by § 831.2007(c) or § 843.208(b) of this chapter if the former spouse has indicated on that Statement that such a court order exists.

(b) If OPM receives a copy of a court order acceptable for processing that is directed at a refund of employee contributions but not all of the documentation required by § 838.421, OPM will notify the former spouse that OPM must receive the missing items within 15 days after the date of the notice or OPM cannot comply with the court order.

[57 FR 33574, July 29, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 43493, Aug. 17, 1993]

§ 838.423 OPM action on receipt of a court order acceptable for processing.

(a) If OPM receives a court order acceptable for processing that is directed at a refund of employee contributions, OPM will inform—

(1) The former spouse—

(i) That the court order is acceptable for processing;

(ii) Of the date on which OPM received the court order;

§ 838.701

Subpart G—Procedures for Processing Court Orders Awarding Former Spouse Survivor Annuities

REGULATORY STRUCTURE

§ 838.701 Purpose and scope.

(a) This subpart regulates the procedures that the Office of Personnel Management will follow upon the receipt of claims arising out of State court orders awarding former spouse survivor annuities under CSRS or FERS (including the FERS basic employee death benefit as defined in § 843.102 of this chapter). OPM must comply with qualifying court orders, decrees, or court-approved property settlements in connection with divorces, annulments of marriages, or legal separations of employees or retirees that award former spouse survivor annuities.

(b) This subpart prescribes—

(1) The commencing and terminating dates of former spouse survivor annuities based on court orders acceptable for processing; and

(2) The procedures that a former spouse must follow when applying for a former spouse survivor annuity based on a court order under section 8341(h) or section 8445 of title 5, United States Code.

(c)(1) Subpart H of this part contains the rules that a court order must satisfy to be a court order acceptable for processing to award a former spouse survivor annuity.

(2) Subpart I of this part contains definitions that OPM uses to determine the effect of a court order in connection with a former spouse survivor annuity.

[57 FR 33574, July 29, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 43493, Aug. 17, 1993]

LIMITATIONS ON SURVIVOR ANNUITIES

§ 838.711 Maximum former spouse survivor annuity.

(a) Under CSRS, payments under a court order may not exceed the amount provided in § 831.641 of this chapter.

(b) Under FERS, payments under a court order may not exceed amount provided in § 842.613 of this chapter plus

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the basic employee death benefit as defined in § 843.102 of this chapter.

[57 FR 33574, July 29, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 52882, Oct. 13, 1993]

APPLICATION AND PROCESSING PROCEDURES

§ 838.721 Application requirements.

(a)(1) A former spouse (personally or through a representative) must apply in writing to be eligible for a former spouse survivor annuity based on a court order acceptable for processing. No special form is required to give OPM notice of the court order.

(2) OPM may require an additional application after the death of the employee, separated employee, or retiree. This additional application will be on a form prescribed by OPM.

(b)(1) The application letter under paragraph (a)(1) of this section must be accompanied by—

(i) A certified copy of the court order;

(ii) A certification from the former spouse or the former spouse's representative that the court order is currently in force and has not been amended, superseded, or set aside;

(iii) Information sufficient for OPM to identify the employee or retiree, such as his or her full name, CSRS or FERS claim number, date of birth, and social security number;

(iv) The current mailing address of the former spouse;

(v) If the employee has not retired or died, the mailing address of the employee; and

(vi) A statement in the form prescribed by OPM certifying—

(A) That the former spouse has not remarried before age 55;

(B) That the former spouse will notify OPM within 15 calendar days of the occurrence of any remarriage before age 55; and

(C) That the former spouse will be personally liable for any overpayment to him or her resulting from a remarriage before age 55.

(2) OPM may subsequently require recertification of the statements required by this paragraph.