

technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until October 1, 2013. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.1.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed information collection to National Healthcare Operations, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20415, Attention: Ed DeHarde, or sent via electronic mail to mssp@opm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by contacting National Healthcare Operations, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: Ed DeHarde, or sent via electronic mail to mssp@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1334 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111–148, as amended by the Health Care Education Reconciliation Act, Public Law 111–152 (together, “Affordable Care Act”), directed the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to enter into contracts with health insurance issuers to offer coverage on Exchanges (also called “Marketplaces”) throughout the 50 States and the District of Columbia. OPM issued final regulations for the establishment of the Multi-State Plan Program (MSPP) on March 11, 2013, 78 FR 15560, which outlined an external review process that would be available to enrollees in Multi-State Plans (MSPs).

The regulations state that “OPM will conduct external review of adverse benefit determinations using a process similar to OPM review of disputed claims under [the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program]” A necessary part of conducting external review of adverse benefit determinations is accepting requests for external review from MSP enrollees who seek external review.

In general, after an issuer denies a claim, the enrollee whose claim is denied may ask the issuer to reconsider through a process called an internal appeal. If an issuer upholds a denial on internal appeal, the enrollee may seek external review of the denial. External review is a process that affords an enrollee in an MSP the right to have a denial of a claim appealed to an entity other than his or her health insurance issuer. The attached Model Notice of Final Internal Adverse Benefit

Determination illustrates the content of the notice that an MSP issuer must provide to an MSP enrollee after denying a claim and upholding such denial upon internal appeal.

Analysis

Agency: National Healthcare Operations, Office of Personnel Management.

Title: Request for External Review.

OMB Number: 3206–NEW.

Frequency: Occasionally.

Affected Public: Multi-State Plan enrollees.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,933,333.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 1,466,666.5.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Elaine Kaplan,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 2013–18602 Filed 8–1–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–38–P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Submission for Review: Designation of Beneficiary: Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance, SF 2823

AGENCY: U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: 60-Day Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) offers the general public and other Federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a revised information collection request (ICR) 3206–0136, Designation of Beneficiary: Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance, SF 2823. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (Pub. L. 104–13, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35) as amended by the Clinger-Cohen Act (Pub. L. 104–106), OPM is soliciting comments for this collection. The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments that:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of OPM, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of OPM's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until October 1, 2013. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.1.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed information collection to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Healthcare and Insurance, 1900 E Street NW., Room 4332, Washington, DC 20415, Attention: Christopher Meuchner or sent by email to Christopher.Meuchner@opm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by contacting the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Retirement Services Publications Team, 1900 E Street NW., Room 4445, Washington, DC 20415, Attention: Cyrus S. Benson, or sent by email to Cyrus.Benson@opm.gov or faxed to (202) 606–0910.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Standard Form 2823 is used by any Federal employee or retiree covered by the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program, or an assignee who owns an insured's coverage, to instruct the Office of Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance how to distribute the proceeds of the FEGLI coverage when the statutory order of precedence does not meet his or her needs. OPM is revising the form to clarify its policy regarding the filing of court orders used for the payment of FEGLI benefits. In addition, OPM is making some minor textual changes to explain how and to whom proceeds can be designated, and emphasizing that the insured individual keep the designation updated as needs change.

Analysis

Agency: Retirement Operations, Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management.

Title: Designation of Beneficiary: Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance.

OMB Number: 3206–0136.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Number of Respondents: 48,000.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Total Burden Hours: 12,000.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Elaine Kaplan,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 2013-18604 Filed 8-1-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-38-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees' Retirement System; Opportunity for Annuitants to Elect Survivor Annuity Benefits for Same-Sex Spouses

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is providing notice of a 2-year opportunity for annuitants who are in legal same-sex marriages to elect survivor annuities for their spouses under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS).

DATES: All retirees who are in legal same-sex marriages have through June 26, 2015, to inform OPM that they have legal same-sex marriages that now qualify for recognition and to elect survivor annuities for their spouses based on their recognized marital status.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information by Phone: Call the Retirement Information Office toll-free at 1-888-767-6738. If you use TTY equipment, call 1-855-887-4957. Be sure to have your claim number (CSA number) on hand when you call a specialist. Information by Email: retire@opm.gov.

Information or Elections by Mail: U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Retirement Operations Center, PO Box 45, Boyers, PA, 16017-0045. Please include your full name and your claim number (CSA number) in your correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) provided that, when used in a Federal law, the term "marriage" would mean only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and that the term "spouse" referred only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife. Because of DOMA, the Federal Government has been prohibited from recognizing the legal marriages of same-sex couples for purposes of retirement benefit programs.

On June 26, 2013, in *United States v. Windsor*, 570 U.S. ___ (2013), the Supreme Court of the United States (Supreme Court) ruled that Section 3 of DOMA is unconstitutional. As a result of this decision, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is now able to extend benefits to Federal employees and annuitants who are legally married to spouses of the same sex, regardless of the employees' or annuitants' states of residency. Consistent with OPM's long-standing policy of recognizing the legal foreign marriages of opposite-sex couples for purposes of the retirement benefit programs that OPM administers, OPM will also recognize legal same-sex marriages granted in countries that authorize such marriages, regardless of the employees' or annuitants' states of residency, for purposes of these programs.

As OPM stated in its June 28, 2013 Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, all retirees who are in legal same-sex marriages will have 2 years from the June 26, 2013 date of the Supreme Court's decision (i.e., through June 26, 2015) to inform OPM that they have legal marriages that now qualify for recognition and to elect reductions in their CSRS or FERS retirement annuities to provide survivor annuity benefits for their spouses, based on their recognized marital status. An annuitant should be aware that electing a survivor annuity will require a reduction of his/her annuity to provide the survivor annuity, or an adjustment of the amount of reduction currently being made to provide an insurable interest annuity to change the reduction amount to a survivor annuity reduction. Before an election is made, we recommend that the annuitants carefully consider what effect the reduction or change in reduction will have on the amount of their net annuities.

Annuitants should consider their language carefully before sending OPM written requests regarding survivor benefits for their spouses. An annuitant who contacts OPM and only request information about the effect a survivor election would have on the annuity will receive a statement describing the cost of the election and an election form that would need to be returned to OPM by June 26, 2015, to elect the survivor benefit. An annuitant who sends a signed statement or letter to OPM and indicates that he/she wants to elect a survivor benefit for a spouse will also receive a statement describing the cost of the election; he/she will not be able to change his/her mind about providing the survivor benefit. Unless otherwise

specified, OPM will consider any requests for information about survivor benefits or any signed elections of survivor benefits as requests for information or elections of the maximum survivor benefit. More information about the election and the survivor reduction is provided at <http://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/my-annuity-and-benefits/life-events/#url=MarriageDivorce>.

A request for information about survivor annuity benefits or signed, written elections of survivor benefits should be accompanied with a copy of the marriage certificate proving the same-sex marriage. Please be advised that an election of a survivor annuity is irrevocable. An annuitant will not be able to change an election later. We strongly urge annuitants to carefully consider elections before submitting them to OPM.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Elaine Kaplan,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 2013-18665 Filed 8-1-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-38-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Excepted Service

AGENCY: U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice identifies Schedule A, B, and C appointing authorities applicable to a single agency that were established or revoked from June 1, 2013, to June 30, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Senior Executive Resources Services, Senior Executive Services and Performance Management, Employee Services, 202-606-2246.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 CFR 213.103, Schedule A, B, and C appointing authorities available for use by all agencies are codified in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Schedule A, B, and C appointing authorities applicable to a single agency are not codified in the CFR, but the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publishes a notice of agency-specific authorities established or revoked each month in the **Federal Register** at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/. OPM also publishes an annual notice of the consolidated listing of all Schedule A, B, and C appointing authorities, current as of June 30, in the **Federal Register**.