

## INFORMATION REGARDING PENSION BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION FOR PRE-RETIREMENT DEATH BENEFITS

This Pension Beneficiary Designation for Pre-Retirement Benefits form allows you to name or change your beneficiaries to receive any pre-retirement death benefits payable by MainePERS. Please note this designation does not apply to Group Life Insurance and a separate form must be filed for that purpose. A member desiring to change beneficiaries at a later date must complete a new Designation of Beneficiary form. The form on file most recently received by MainePERS will be used to determine your beneficiary.

You may designate one or more individuals, or your estate (as provided by statute), as primary or contingent beneficiaries.

Please follow the instructions carefully. If the form is missing information and we are unable to identify you or your intended beneficiaries, we may not be able to administer your beneficiary designations or pay benefits as you intended. For example, be sure to:

- sign the form (and each additional sheet, if applicable);
- include the complete name of any individual beneficiaries (not just first names);
- avoid using words like "or", "if" or "and";
- fully and clearly complete the Member section.

If you do not have a valid beneficiary form on file or you are not survived by a designated beneficiary, your benefits will be payable, as outlined by Maine law, to the first of the following living relatives at the time of your passing:

- Surviving Spouse
- Child or Children, regardless of age
- The older parent, or
- The qualifying member's estate

### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

1. **Primary Beneficiary** means one or more people designated by a member to receive a benefit, or a person otherwise entitled to receive a benefit.
2. **Contingent Beneficiary** means one or more people designated by a member to receive a benefit, or a person otherwise entitled to receive a benefit, if the Primary Beneficiaries are deceased at the time of the member's death.
3. **Dependent child** means any unmarried, natural, born or unborn, or legally adopted child of the member, under 18 years of age or under 22 years of age and a full-time student; or regardless of age or marital status, a child who is disabled.
4. **Parent** means mother or father, stepmother or stepfather; Father means father or stepfather; Mother means mother or stepmother.
5. **Spouse** means the person currently legally married to the member.

(CONTINUED ON REVERSE)

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In the event of your death **ONE, BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE**, of the following benefits may be selected by your beneficiaries:

- A. **Refund of contributions**: A refund of the total amount of your contributions and allowable interest in MainePERS is paid to your designated beneficiaries.
- B. **Reduced Retirement Benefits (Automatic Option 2)**: A reduced monthly retirement allowance is paid to your beneficiaries upon your death, provided you meet one of the following criteria: (1) you are an active member; (2) you are a disability retiree, or (3) you have met retirement eligibility requirements, but have not yet retired. Any individuals may be designated as beneficiaries for this ordinary death benefit.

***NOTE: Not all members employed by participating local districts are covered by this provision. Please contact MainePERS if you have questions whether this option would be available to your beneficiaries.***

If you have named more than one beneficiary, payment under A or B will be made in equal shares, unless clearly specified to the contrary. Specify different shares by percentages rather than by dollar amount.

- C. **Survivor Benefit**: A statutory benefit that is paid only if a spouse, dependent children, parents, or other designated beneficiaries are named as beneficiaries.
1. If a spouse is named as beneficiary, all of your dependent children are automatically included.
  2. If you want both of your parents to receive a survivor benefit, BOTH must be named as beneficiaries.
  3. If your dependent children are named as beneficiaries, you must change your beneficiary designation as each child no longer meets the definition of dependent child.
  4. Any other person may qualify as an "other designated beneficiary."
  5. Please keep in mind that Survivor Benefits will not be available if you name a combination of: (1) your spouse and non-dependent children, (2) your spouse and parents, (3) your parents and children, (4) "other designated beneficiary" with any other eligible beneficiary, or (5) dependent and non-dependent children.

**Although you may name more than one beneficiary, no Survivor Benefits will be paid if one or more of the designated beneficiaries does not qualify for Survivor Benefits. In this case, the beneficiaries will have the option to receive either a refund of contributions and interest or a reduced retirement benefit (Automatic Option 2), if applicable.**

***NOTE: Not all members employed by participating local districts are covered by this provision. Please contact MainePERS if you have questions whether this option would be available to your beneficiaries.***

- D. In case of death due to a work-incurred illness or injury, the applicable accidental death benefits may be paid in lieu of any other benefits to a surviving spouse and/or dependent.