

INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

Applying for Retirement under the Portable Benefit Package



State Universities Retirement System of Illinois

If you choose an optional form of annuity, this application is valid for up to 180 days prior to the date of your retirement. Otherwise, it is valid up to one year prior to the date your retirement annuity is to begin.

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General Instructions

Follow the steps in this guide to apply for SURS retirement benefits. Read all the information in the instruction packet carefully, and fill out the included forms applicable to you.

Mail completed forms to:

SURS
PO Box 2710
Champaign, IL 61825-2710

If you have not already sent the following documents to SURS, mail them with your application:

- A copy of your birth certificate.
- Copies of your marriage/civil union certificate and your spouse's/civil union partner's birth certificate.
- A copy of your contingent annuitant's birth certificate.
- A copy of your Medicare card or notice of ineligibility (if applicable).
- A copy of your dependent's Medicare card or notice of ineligibility (if applicable).

For more information, visit www.surs.org. You may contact a SURS Member Service Representative toll free at 800-275-7877, or dial direct 217-378-8800.

Member Website

Make sure you register for the SURS Member Website. It allows you to view your retirement claim status, electronic payment notices, employment and earnings history, and update your personal information. Visit www.surs.org and click on the Member Login link at the top of the page to register.

This packet is intended to serve only as a brief summary of the provisions of the law governing the State Universities Retirement System. It should not be considered a substitute for the provisions of the law which are set forth in Chapter 40, Act 5, Articles 1, 15, and 20 of the *Illinois Compiled Statutes*.

General Information

Before completing your Application for Retirement Annuity, please review each of the following sections. If you find something that might affect your SURS annuity that you have not discussed with a SURS representative, you should contact SURS right away.

If you will be receiving Social Security benefits, note that certain restrictions may apply to your Social Security income if you receive both Social Security benefits and a retirement annuity from SURS. You should contact the Social Security Administration for information on these provisions.

Sick Leave

You will receive additional service credit for unused and unpaid sick leave if your retirement annuity begins within 60 days after terminating your employment covered by SURS or one of the other systems subject to the Illinois Reciprocal Act. Your employer will provide SURS with this information when you terminate your employment.

If you've had intermittent employment with various SURS agencies, you may be eligible to receive additional service credit for any unused and unpaid sick leave remaining at termination with those employers as well.

Service Credit

If you have had previous employment/service, you may qualify to purchase additional credit to increase your retirement annuity. Eligible credit may include leaves of absence, prior service, military service, other public employment (OPE) and repayment of a separation refund.

For detailed information regarding service credit eligibility and the payment process, see the Portable Plan Member Guide at www.surs.org/retirement-plans under Portable Plan link.

Note: All service credit must be purchased before the date your retirement annuity begins. For example, if you wish to receive your first annuity payment on Sept. 1, any credit you wish to be included in the calculation of your benefit must be paid to SURS no later than Aug. 31. Credit purchased after the date your retirement annuity starts will be refunded without interest.

Part-Time Employment

If you had periods of employment with a SURS-covered employer that varied in percentage of time worked, your service credit may be adjusted.

When your retirement annuity is calculated, your service credit may be reduced if you were employed at 50% time or less for more than 3 years after Sept. 1, 1959.

Normal and Optional Forms of Annuity

The Portable Benefit Package does not provide an automatic survivor annuity. If you wish to provide your survivor with a monthly annuity after your death, you must elect a Joint & Survivor Annuity. **The election of the Joint & Survivor Annuity will reduce your monthly retirement annuity.**

The following describes the Normal Form of Annuity and the Optional Forms of Annuity. All elections are irrevocable after the beginning of your annuity payment period.

Normal Form of Annuity

- If you do not have a spouse/civil union partner on the date your retirement annuity begins, the retirement annuity is a Single-Life annuity, payable only for your lifetime.
- If you have a spouse/civil union partner on the date your retirement annuity begins, your retirement annuity will be paid as a qualified Joint & Survivor annuity that is the actuarial equivalent of the Single-Life annuity. Under the qualified Joint & Survivor annuity, a reduced amount shall be paid to you for your lifetime. Your spouse/civil union partner, if living at the time of your death, shall receive a lifetime survivorship annuity equal to 50% of the reduced monthly annuity that was payable to you at your death.

Optional Forms of Annuity

You may elect only *one* optional form.

- *Single-Life Annuity:*
If you have a spouse/civil union partner on the date your retirement annuity begins, you may elect, with your spouse's/civil union partner's consent, to receive a Single-Life annuity payable for your lifetime. There would be no survivor annuity payable at your death.
- *Joint & Survivor Annuity Options:*
 1. If you have a spouse/civil union partner on the date your retirement annuity begins and you designate them to be your contingent annuitant, you may elect a 75% or 100% Joint & Survivor annuity, or

2. If you have a spouse/civil union partner on the date your retirement annuity begins and designate a contingent annuitant who is not your spouse/civil union partner, you may elect, with your spouse/civil union partner's approval, a 50%, 75% or 100% Joint & Survivor annuity, or
3. If you do not have a spouse/civil union partner on the date your retirement annuity begins and designate a contingent annuitant, you may elect a 50%, 75%, or 100% Joint & Survivor annuity.

• *Lump-Sum Retirement Benefit:*

If you have a spouse/civil union partner and elect this optional form of annuity, your spouse/civil union partner must consent to this election. There would be no survivor annuity payable at your death. The lump-sum benefit is taxed as a lump-sum distribution. Additional information is provided on the following pages.

Instead of the normal form of annuity, you may elect, in writing, within the 180-day period prior to the date your retirement annuity is to begin, to waive the normal form of annuity payment and receive an optional form of annuity.

If you have a spouse/civil union partner on the date your retirement annuity begins and you designate someone other than your spouse/civil union partner as the contingent annuitant to receive a Joint and Survivor annuity, this election will not be valid unless SURS receives your spouse/civil union partner's written, notarized consent to this election.

You may revoke your election of the optional form of annuity at any time during the 180-day period prior to the date your retirement annuity begins. This does not require your spouse's/civil union partner's consent. However, your spouse's/civil union partner's written consent must be obtained if you revoke an optional form elected and elect a new optional form or designate a different contingent annuitant. To make a new election, contact SURS.

The tables on the following pages show the *approximate* percent of annuity you will receive if you elect a 50%, 75%, or 100% Joint & Survivor Annuity. Space constraints limit how many age combinations we can show.

Please contact SURS to receive an exact percent for your personal situation. In using the table, your age at the date your retirement annuity begins is at the top of the table. Your beneficiary's age at the date your retirement annuity begins is on the left side of the table.

RECIPROCAL SYSTEMS

Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund

203 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2600
Chicago, IL 60601-1210
Tel. (312) 641-4464 Fax (312) 641-7185
www.ctpf.org

County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County

33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602-3103
Tel. (312) 603-1200 Fax (312) 603-9760

Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County

33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602-3103
Tel. (312) 603-1200 Fax (312) 603-9760

General Assembly Retirement System

2101 South Veterans Parkway - P.O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255
Tel. (217) 782-8500 Fax (217) 557-5154
www.srs.illinois.gov

Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund

2211 York Road, Suite 500
Oak Brook, IL 60523-2337
Tel. 800-275-4673 Fax (630) 368-5399
www.imrf.org

Judges' Retirement System

2101 South Veterans Parkway - P.O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255
Tel. (217) 782-8500 Fax (217) 557-5154
www.srs.illinois.gov

Laborers' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago

321 North Clark Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60654-4739
Tel. (312) 236-2065 Fax (312) 236-0574
www.labfchicago.org

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Retirement Fund

111 East Erie, Suite 330
Chicago, IL 60611-2898
Tel. (312) 751-3222 Fax (312) 751-5699
www.mwrdr.org

Municipal Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago

321 North Clark Street, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60654-4767
Tel. (312) 236-4700 Fax (312) 527-0192
www.meabf.org

Park Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago

55 East Monroe Street, Suite 2720
Chicago, IL 60603-5713
Tel. (312) 553-9265 Fax (312) 553-9114
www.chicagoparkpension.org

State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois

2101 South Veterans Parkway - P.O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255
Tel. (217) 785-7444 Fax (217) 524-2293
www.srs.illinois.gov/SERS/Home_sers.htm

Teachers' Retirement System

2815 West Washington Street - P.O. Box 19253
Springfield, IL 62794-9253
Tel. 877-927-5877 Fax (217) 753-0394
www.trsil.org

50% JOINT AND SURVIVOR TABLE
Effective January 4, 2016

		Your Age at Retirement															
		55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Age of Beneficiary at Retirement	50	93%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	83%	82%	81%	79%
	51	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	82%	81%	80%
	52	94%	93%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	83%	82%	80%
	53	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	81%
	54	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	83%	81%
	55	95%	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	83%	82%
	56	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	82%
	57	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	83%
	58	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%
	59	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%
	60	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%
	61	96%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%
	62	97%	96%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%
	63	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%
	64	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	91%	90%	89%	88%
	65	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%
	66	98%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%
67	98%	97%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	
68	98%	98%	97%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	
69	98%	98%	98%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	
70	98%	98%	98%	98%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	

75% JOINT & SURVIVOR TABLE
Effective January 4, 2016

		Your Age at Retirement															
		55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Age of Beneficiary at Retirement	50	90%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	81%	80%	78%	77%	75%	74%	72%
	51	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	83%	82%	80%	79%	77%	76%	74%	72%
	52	91%	90%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	81%	79%	78%	76%	75%	73%
	53	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	83%	81%	80%	79%	77%	75%	74%
	54	92%	91%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	81%	79%	78%	76%	74%
	55	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	83%	81%	80%	78%	77%	75%
	56	93%	92%	91%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	81%	79%	77%	76%
	57	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	89%	88%	86%	85%	84%	83%	81%	80%	78%	77%
	58	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	81%	79%	77%
	59	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	85%	84%	83%	81%	80%	78%
	60	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	81%	79%
	61	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	83%	81%	80%
	62	95%	95%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	90%	89%	87%	86%	85%	84%	82%	81%
	63	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	83%	81%
	64	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	85%	84%	82%
	65	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%
	66	96%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%
67	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	86%	85%	
68	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	91%	90%	88%	87%	86%	
69	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	
70	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	

100% JOINT & SURVIVOR TABLE
Effective January 4, 2016

		Your Age at Retirement															
		55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Age of Beneficiary at Retirement	50	88%	87%	85%	84%	83%	82%	81%	79%	78%	76%	75%	73%	71%	69%	68%	66%
	51	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	82%	81%	80%	78%	77%	75%	74%	72%	70%	68%	66%
	52	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	83%	82%	80%	79%	77%	76%	74%	73%	71%	69%	67%
	53	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	82%	81%	80%	78%	77%	75%	73%	72%	70%	68%
	54	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	83%	82%	80%	79%	77%	76%	74%	72%	70%	69%
	55	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	83%	81%	80%	78%	77%	75%	73%	71%	69%
	56	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	80%	79%	77%	76%	74%	72%	70%
	57	91%	90%	90%	89%	88%	86%	85%	84%	83%	81%	80%	78%	76%	75%	73%	71%
	58	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	81%	79%	77%	76%	74%	72%
	59	92%	91%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	85%	84%	83%	81%	80%	78%	76%	75%	73%
	60	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	84%	82%	81%	79%	77%	76%	74%
	61	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	83%	82%	80%	78%	77%	75%
	62	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	85%	84%	82%	81%	79%	78%	76%
	63	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	80%	79%	77%
	64	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	83%	81%	80%	78%
	65	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	86%	85%	84%	82%	81%	79%
	66	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	90%	90%	88%	87%	86%	85%	83%	82%	80%
67	96%	95%	95%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	83%	81%	
68	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	86%	85%	84%	82%	
69	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%	87%	86%	85%	83%	
70	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	90%	89%	88%	87%	86%	84%	

The following are examples of 50%, 75% or 100% Joint & Survivor Annuity Table calculations. In each example, the member is age 55 with a 50-year-old beneficiary and a monthly annuity of \$2000.

50% — The reduced monthly annuity for the member is \$1,860 ($\$2000 \times 93\%$), and the 50% Survivorship annuity is \$930 ($\$1,860 \times 50\%$) during the first calendar year.

75% — The reduced monthly annuity for the member is \$1,800 ($\$2000 \times 90\%$), and the 75% Survivorship annuity is \$1,350 ($\$1,800 \times 75\%$) during the first calendar year.

100% — The reduced monthly annuity for the member is \$1,760 ($\$2,000 \times 88\%$) and the 100% Survivorship annuity is \$1,760 ($\$1,760 \times 100\%$) during the first calendar year.

Filing for Retirement

If you are electing the *normal form of annuity*, SURS would like to receive your application at least 60 days prior to the date your annuity is to begin so we can begin processing your claim. **If you are electing an optional form of annuity, you may not make this election before the 180-day period prior to the date your annuity is to begin.** The Normal and Optional Forms of Annuity are explained above.

If you have established at least one year of service credit with any of the other 12 reciprocal systems, you must contact those systems to request an application for their portion of the benefit. You will receive a benefit payment from each system with which you have established service credit. Contact information for reciprocal systems is on Page 2.

Preliminary Estimated Payments

SURS attempts to provide the best possible service to its members by processing benefits and issuing annuity payments in a timely manner.

To achieve this goal, SURS will send you Preliminary Estimated Payments (PEP) beginning the date your retirement annuity begins, provided your birth date and Medicare eligibility (if applicable) have been verified. This PEP is a portion of what your actual benefit will be.

The PEP is not the same amount as the estimate you may have had calculated by a SURS Benefits Counselor and will not include the following:

- Current year earnings and/or vacation payments
- Reciprocal credits
- Additional credit for unused, unpaid sick leave
- Additional service credit purchased after your Application for Retirement Annuity is received

If you have previously taxed contributions, SURS will calculate your federal income tax exclusion. Federal income taxes and insurance premiums, if applicable, will be deducted from the PEP.

When your retirement claim is finalized, you will receive payment for the difference between your PEP and the actual monthly benefit amount due you, retroactive to the date your retirement annuity began.

In the event your PEP is larger than your finalized annuity, you must return the overpayment.

Employment After Retirement

If you elect a recurring monthly annuity...

If you return to work with an employer covered by SURS, you must notify SURS immediately because your earnings are subject to the limitations below. If you do not adhere to these restrictions, your annuity may be reduced, suspended or subject to repayment.

- You may not work for a SURS-covered employer until you have been retired at least 60 calendar days after your annuity begin date.
- If your annuity payments began at age 60 or later, your earnings from a SURS-covered employer during any academic year, combined with your annual base annuity, may not exceed your highest earnings received during any academic year before you retired.
- If your annuity payments began before age 60, your earnings from a SURS-covered employer may not exceed your monthly gross annuity. The earnings limitation is increased each year by the Automatic Annual Increase.

If you are receiving an annuity from one of the other 12 reciprocal systems, please contact that system for its earnings limitation.

There is no limitation on your post-retirement earnings if you return to work with an employer that is not covered by SURS. Earnings limit information will be forwarded to you upon completion of your retirement claim.

SURS-covered employers hiring SURS annuitants will face additional restrictions. For more information about employer restrictions, please review the Employment after Retirement Fact Sheet at www.surs.org/fact-sheets.

For specific questions regarding how these restrictions may impact your ability to be rehired by a SURS-covered employer, please contact the employer directly.

If you elect the Lump-Sum Retirement Benefit...

Unlike the members who receive a recurring monthly annuity, there is no earnings limitation for members receiving the lump-sum retirement benefit. However, some requirements still apply:

- If you return to work for a SURS-covered employer within 60 days after the lump-sum benefit has been issued, your retirement will be cancelled. If your retirement is cancelled, you will continue to participate in SURS and the lump-sum benefit must be repaid.
- If your return to SURS-covered employment is after the 60-day period mentioned above, you have the following choices:
 - a. If you wish to return to participation and earn additional benefits, you must complete the "Election to Participate During Reemployment Following Receipt of a Lump-Sum Retirement Benefit" form.
 - b. If you do not elect to participate, no SURS contributions will be withheld.
- It is recommended that you contact your employer's benefits office to determine your health insurance eligibility.

Application For Retirement Annuity Instructions

PART 1 – Personal Information

Provide SURS with verification of your personal information.

Termination Date*

This is the later of (1) the last day you work, or (2) the last day you earn pay. Please coordinate with your personnel or human resources department.

Date Retirement Annuity is to Begin*

You must terminate all SURS-covered employment and meet all eligibility requirements before your SURS annuity can begin. Your annuity payments will begin:

- The first of the month following your termination of employment (the benefit is not prorated in the month you retire);
- The first of the month following the date you reach minimum qualifying age or service credit; or
- The date listed on your Application for Retirement Annuity (but no more than 12 months before the application is received at SURS).

***These cannot be the same date.**

Citizenship Status

This must be completed regardless of mailing address. Resident aliens hold a permanent immigration visa (green card) or have established residency by meeting the substantial presence test. Nonresident aliens are not citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. and are subject to the general 30 percent withholding rates or the lower tax treaty rates.

PART 2 – Authorization of Payment

Your SURS benefit payments will be deposited electronically in your checking or savings account on the first day of each month. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) offers several advantages:

- Speed – Benefit payments are deposited on schedule.
- Security – Payments cannot be lost in the mail.
- Convenience – Your annuity is automatically deposited.

Please note:

- You will be directed to skip some steps if they do not apply to you.
- Sign and date all forms **in ink**.
- Some forms may require you to sign in the presence of a notary.
- Make sure SURS has your current email address so you can receive updates on the status of your claim.

In order to process your request for EFT, SURS must have a complete mailing address for your financial institution. The address must include a street address or box number. In order to send your payment via EFT, we need your nine-digit routing number. Please attach a copy of a voided check or deposit slip that displays the nine-digit routing number and your account number at the bottom.

We will provide you with electronic payment notification showing the exact amount that will be deposited and all deductions prior to the beginning of each month. You can also view this information on the SURS Member Website at www.surs.org.

PART 3 – Income Tax Withholding

You must instruct SURS on the amount of federal tax you wish to have withheld from your monthly annuity. To do this, complete the federal W-4P form in the forms packet.

If the W-4P form is not returned, SURS will withhold federal income tax using the withholding method of married with three allowances. It is up to you to have the appropriate amount withheld.

Please review the W-4P instructions at www.irs.gov. If you have questions about the amount to withhold, we recommend you consult a tax advisor or the IRS.

Your annuity is not subject to Illinois tax. However, you may authorize SURS to withhold Illinois tax. Go to www.surs.org/tax-forms or contact SURS for an IL W-4 Employee's Illinois Withholding Allowance Certificate. SURS cannot withhold taxes for other states.

PART 4 — Election of the Normal Form or Optional Forms of Annuity

Complete the Married or the Unmarried section. Please review ALL options before completing this section.

If you are electing the *normal form of annuity*, SURS would like to receive your application at least 60 days prior to the date your annuity is to begin so we can begin processing your claim.

If you are electing an optional form of annuity, you may not make this election before the 180-day period prior to the date your annuity is to begin.

You must provide proof of birth date for your spouse/civil union partner or contingent annuitant. If you are married, you must provide a copy of your marriage certificate. You may revoke your election at any time prior to the date of your retirement, provided SURS receives written notification. If you name someone other than your spouse/civil union partner as contingent annuitant, spousal consent is required. The spouse's/civil union partner's consent must be notarized.

PART 5 – Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act

If you have service and earnings credit of 1 year or more in an Illinois public retirement system **other than SURS**, you may wish to retire under the Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act.

Note that you must also file an application with that other system. Contact information for reciprocal systems is on Page 2.


Regardless of your election for either the recurring monthly annuity or lump-sum retirement benefit, the reciprocal system will consider SURS service and earnings credit in the calculation of their recurring monthly annuity.

PART 6 – Required Documentation

Check to see what documentation you need to include with your application.

PART 7 – Member Signature

Read the statements, then sign and date the application.



The screenshot shows the SURS Member Website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, My SURS, Mailbox, Make Changes, and Forms. Below this is a section for Member Information and Beneficiaries. A prominent red box with white text says "** ATTENTION **" and contains a link: "Click here if you would like to register for a Pre-retirement Seminar (CIP)". Below this, there is a link to view retirement claim status. A green progress bar is shown with a black drop icon, labeled "PEP Is Being Calculated". At the bottom left of the progress bar, it says "Application Received".

Did you know?

You can follow the progress of your retirement claim on our Member Website. To view the status of your claim:

1. Go to www.surs.org and click the gold Member Login button in the upper right-hand corner of the website.
2. Log in to the SURS Member Website. (If you have never logged in, you must go through the registration process).
3. Once logged in, you will see a Status Bar, click on it to view the details of your claim status.

If you have problems logging in or viewing information, call SURS toll free at 800-275-7877 or dial direct 217-378-8800.

Retirement claims are finalized on a first in, first out basis.

Beneficiary Designation Information

General Information

- Return the original Beneficiary Designation form to SURS. Do not fax it. You should make a copy for your records.
- The Beneficiary Designation becomes effective when received by SURS. Allow 30 days for any changes to be properly recorded. Log in to the SURS Member Website to verify your listed beneficiaries or call SURS at 800-275-7877 or 217-378-8800.
- An agent acting under a Power of Attorney (POA) must be expressly authorized to change the beneficiaries of a retirement plan. The agent cannot name himself or herself as beneficiary unless the POA expressly authorizes the agent to make gifts of the member's property to himself or herself.
- The Beneficiary Designation form does not pertain to State life insurance proceeds. Go to www.surs.org for life insurance carrier information.

PART 1 – Member Information

- Complete your member information.
- Provide the information for your spouse/civil union partner
- If you wish to name your spouse/civil union partner as a beneficiary, be sure to also add his/her information in Parts 2 or 3 on the form.

PART 2&3 – Designating Beneficiaries

- Upon your death, the beneficiaries named on the Beneficiary Designation form will receive the amounts to which they are entitled by law. It is important that you periodically review your beneficiaries and complete new forms to change your designated beneficiaries, or to update beneficiary contact information.
- You may visit www.surs.org or contact the SURS office to obtain a new form to make changes at any time.
- You may name any person, firm, corporation or other legal entity (including your estate or trust) as primary or contingent beneficiaries for a death benefit. However, if you are married or in a civil union, you must designate your spouse/civil union partner as sole primary beneficiary for all death benefits unless your spouse/civil union partner consents to the designation of another beneficiary and your spouse's/civil union partner's consent is witnessed by a notary public.

- You may change your Beneficiary Designation at any time. However, if you are married/ in a civil union, your spouse/civil union partner must consent to your new Beneficiary Designation — unless you are naming your spouse/civil union partner as the sole primary beneficiary under your new designation.
- For a former spouse/civil union partner to be eligible for any death benefit, you must designate, or re-designate, him or her as beneficiary after the date of divorce.
- If you designate a female as a beneficiary, you must use the first name as well as last name (e.g., Joan L. Smith, not Mrs. Robert Smith).
- Upon your death, the lump-sum death benefit will be shared equally by all primary beneficiaries, unless you specify otherwise on the Beneficiary Designation form. You may choose to specify how benefits will be divided using a percentage for each primary beneficiary. Each percentage must be a whole number (for example: 33%, not 33.3%) and the primary beneficiary total must equal 100%. If one of these is deceased, the benefit will be divided equally between the remaining primary beneficiaries.
- If all primary beneficiaries have pre-deceased you, the benefit will instead be divided equally between the living contingent beneficiaries, unless otherwise directed on your Beneficiary Designation form. You may choose to specify how benefits will be divided using a percentage for each contingent beneficiary. Each percentage must be a whole number (for example: 33%, not 33.3%) and the contingent beneficiary total must equal 100%. If one of these is deceased, the benefit will be divided equally between the remaining contingent beneficiaries.
- If no primary or contingent beneficiaries are living upon your death, the benefit will be paid to your estate.
- Attach and sign a separate sheet if naming more beneficiaries than space allows and indicate whether they are primary or contingent.

PART 4 – Signature

- Your signature must be in ink and witnessed by a person other than a designated beneficiary.

