



RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

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FILED

DATE: December 08, 2021
TIME: 4:53 PM

WSR 22-01-061

Agency: Department of Retirement Systems

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

- 31 days after filing.
- Other (specify) _____ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: Survivor Option Changes – To implement chapter 161, Laws of 2020 (SB 6417), allowing members to change their survivor option one time within 90 calendar days following receipt of the first retirement benefit.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New:

Repealed:

Amended: WAC 415-103-225 What are my WSPRS Plan 2 retirement benefit options?, 415-104-215 What are my LEOFF Plan 2 retirement benefit options?, 415-106-600 What are my [PSERS] retirement benefit options?, 415-108-326 What are my [PERS] retirement benefit options?, 415-110-610 What are my [SERS] retirement benefit options?, and 415-112-505 What are my TRS Plan 2 or Plan 3 retirement benefit options?

Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 41.50.050

Other authority:

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 21-22-116 on November 3, 2021 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: No changes, the text being adopted is identical to the text as proposed.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Web site:

Other:

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Federal rules or standards:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	___	Amended	<u>6</u>	Repealed	___

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Pilot rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Other alternative rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___

Date Adopted: December 8, 2021

Name: Tracy Guerin

Title: Director

Signature:



WAC 415-103-225 What are my WSPRS Plan 2 retirement benefit options? This section applies to WSPRS Plan 2 members. Upon retirement for service under RCW 43.43.250, you must choose to have your monthly retirement benefit paid to you by one of the options described in this section.

(1) **Which option will pay my beneficiary a monthly benefit after my death?** Options described in subsection (2)(b) through (d) of this section include a survivor option. The person you name at the time of retirement to receive a monthly benefit after your death is referred to as your "survivor beneficiary." Upon your death your survivor beneficiary will be entitled to receive a monthly benefit for the duration of his or her life. Your monthly retirement benefit will be actuarially reduced to offset the cost of the survivor option. See WAC 415-02-380 for more information on how your monthly benefit is affected by choosing a survivor option.

(2) **What are my benefit options?**

(a) **Option one: Standard benefit (nonsurvivor option).** The department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit throughout your life. Your monthly benefit will cease upon your death.

(b) **Option two: Joint and (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to your gross monthly benefit.

(c) **Option three: Joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to (~~fifty~~) 50 percent of your gross monthly benefit.

(d) **Option four: Joint and two-thirds survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to two-thirds (66.667 percent) of your gross monthly benefit.

(3) **Do I need my spouse's consent on the option I choose?** The option you select will determine whether spousal consent is required.

(a) If you are married and select a nonsurvivor benefit option, you must submit your spouse's consent, verified by notarization or other means acceptable to the department. If you do not provide verified spousal consent, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 43.43.271(2).

(b) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for your spouse, spousal consent is not required. The department will pay you a monthly benefit based on the option you selected.

(c) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for someone other than your spouse, verified spousal consent is required. If you do not provide spousal consent, verified by notarization or other means acceptable to the department, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 43.43.271(2).

(d) If your survivor beneficiary has been designated by a dissolution order according to subsection (4) of this section, which was filed with the department at least (~~thirty~~) 30 days before your retirement date, spousal consent is not required.

(4) Can a dissolution order require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary? Yes. A dissolution order may require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary. The department is required to pay survivor benefits to a former spouse pursuant to a dissolution order that complies with RCW 41.50.790.

(5) What happens if I choose a benefit with a survivor option and my survivor beneficiary dies before I do? If your survivor beneficiary dies before you do, you may request to have your benefit increased as described in WAC 415-02-380.

(6) May I change my benefit option after retirement? Your choice of a benefit option is irrevocable with the following (~~three~~) four exceptions:

(a) **Return to membership.** If you retire and then return to membership, you may choose a different retirement option upon your subsequent retirement.

(b) **Postretirement marriage option.** If you select the standard benefit option at the time of retirement and marry after retirement, you may select a benefit option with a survivor option and name your current spouse as survivor, provided that:

(i) Your benefit is not subject to a property division obligation pursuant to a dissolution order. See WAC 415-02-500;

(ii) The selection is made during a one-year window, on or after the date of the first anniversary and before the second anniversary of your postretirement marriage;

(iii) You provide a copy of your certified marriage certificate to the department; and

(iv) You provide proof of your current spouse's birth date.

(c) **Removal of a nonspouse survivor option.** If you select a benefit option with a survivor option and name a nonspouse as survivor beneficiary at the time of retirement, you may remove that survivor beneficiary designation and have your benefit adjusted to a standard benefit. You may exercise this option one time only.

(d) One-time change of survivor. You may change your benefit option and/or designated survivor one time within 90 days from the date your first benefit payment is issued. Your change request must be in writing, and must comply with other requirements as described in this section. Your new benefit amount will be effective the first of the month following the receipt of your request by the department.

(7) Who will receive the balance of my accumulated contributions, if any, after my death?

(a) If you do not have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and you die before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(i) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) you have nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(ii) If you have not designated a beneficiary, or if your designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your surviving spouse.

(iii) If not paid according to (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, then to your estate.

(b) If you have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and your survivor beneficiary dies before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(i) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) your survivor beneficiary has nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(ii) If your survivor beneficiary has not designated a beneficiary, or if the designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your survivor beneficiary's spouse.

(iii) If not paid according to (b)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, then to your survivor beneficiary's estate.

(8) For more information, see RCW 43.43.271.

WAC 415-104-215 What are my LEOFF Plan 2 retirement benefit options? If you retire for service under RCW 41.26.430 or nonduty disability under RCW 41.26.470, or if you choose to receive a monthly benefit for duty disability under RCW 41.26.470, you must choose to have your monthly retirement benefit paid to you by one of the options described in this section.

(1) **Which option will pay my beneficiary a monthly benefit after my death?** Options described in subsection (2)(b) through (d) of this section will pay a monthly benefit to your survivor after your death. The person you name at the time of retirement to receive a monthly benefit after your death is referred to as your "survivor beneficiary." After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a monthly benefit for the duration of their life. Your monthly retirement benefit will be reduced to offset the cost of the survivor option. See WAC 415-02-380 for more information on how your monthly benefit will be affected if you choose a survivor option.

(2) **What are my benefit options?**

(a) **Option one: Standard benefit (nonsurvivor option).** The department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. Your monthly benefit will cease upon your death.

(b) **Option two: Joint and (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to your gross monthly benefit.

(c) **Option three: Joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to (~~fifty~~) 50 percent of your gross monthly benefit.

(d) **Option four: Joint and two-thirds benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to two-thirds (66.667%) of your gross monthly benefit.

(3) **Do I need my spouse's consent on the option I choose?** The option you select will determine whether spousal consent is required.

(a) If you are married and select a nonsurvivor benefit option, you must provide your spouse's consent, verified by notarization or other means acceptable to the department. If you do not provide verified spousal consent, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.26.460(2).

(b) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for your spouse, spousal consent is not required. The department will pay you a monthly benefit based on the option you selected.

(c) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for someone other than your spouse, verified spousal consent is required. If you do not provide spousal consent, verified by notarization or other means acceptable to the department, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and (~~fif-~~

ty)) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.26.460(2).

(d) If your survivor beneficiary has been designated by a dissolution order according to subsection (4) of this section, which was filed with the department at least (~~thirty~~) 30 days before your retirement date, spousal consent is not required.

(4) **Can a dissolution order require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary?** Yes. A dissolution order may require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary. The department is required to pay survivor benefits to a former spouse pursuant to a dissolution order that complies with RCW 41.50.790.

(5) **What happens if I choose a benefit option with a survivor option and my survivor beneficiary dies before I do?** If your survivor beneficiary dies before you do, you may request to have your benefit increased as described in WAC 415-02-380.

(6) **May I change my benefit option after retirement?** Your choice of a benefit option is irrevocable with the following (~~three~~) four exceptions:

(a) **Return to membership.** If you retire and then return to membership, you may choose a different retirement option upon your subsequent retirement.

(b) **Postretirement marriage option.** If you select the standard benefit option at the time of retirement and marry after retirement, you may select a benefit option with a survivor option and name your current spouse as survivor beneficiary, provided that:

(i) Your benefit is not subject to a property division obligation pursuant to a dissolution order. See WAC 415-02-500;

(ii) The selection is made during a one-year window, on or after the date of the first anniversary and before the second anniversary of your postretirement marriage;

(iii) You provide a copy of your certified marriage certificate to the department; and

(iv) You provide proof of your current spouse's birth date.

(c) **Removal of a nonspouse survivor option.** If you select a benefit option with a survivor option and name a nonspouse as survivor beneficiary at the time of retirement, you may remove that survivor beneficiary designation and have your benefit adjusted to a standard benefit. You may exercise this option one time only.

(d) One-time change of survivor. You may change your benefit option and/or designated survivor one time within 90 days from the date your first benefit payment is issued. Your change request must be in writing, and must comply with other requirements as described in this section. Your new benefit amount will be effective the first of the month following the receipt of your request by the department.

(7) **Who will receive the balance of my accumulated contributions, if any, after my death?**

(a) If you do not have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and you die before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(i) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) you have nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(ii) If you have not designated a beneficiary, or if the designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your surviving spouse.

(iii) If not paid according to (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, then to your estate.

(b) If you have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and your survivor beneficiary dies before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(i) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) your survivor beneficiary has nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(ii) If your survivor beneficiary has not designated a beneficiary, or if the designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your survivor beneficiary's spouse.

(iii) If not paid according to (b)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, then to your survivor beneficiary's estate.

(8) For more information, see RCW 41.26.460.

WAC 415-106-600 What are my retirement benefit options? Upon retirement for service under RCW 41.37.210 or retirement for disability under RCW 41.37.230, you must choose to have your retirement benefit paid to you by one of the options described in this section.

(1) **Which option will pay my beneficiary a monthly benefit after my death?** Options described in subsection (2)(b) through (d) of this section will pay a monthly benefit to your survivor after your death. The person you name at the time of retirement to receive a monthly benefit after your death is referred to as your "survivor beneficiary." After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a monthly benefit for the duration of their life. Your monthly retirement benefit will be reduced to offset the cost of the survivor option. See WAC 415-02-380 for more information on how your monthly benefit will be affected if you choose a survivor option.

(2) **What are my benefit options?**

(a) **Option one: Standard benefit (nonsurvivor option).** The department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. Your monthly benefit will cease upon your death.

(b) **Option two: Joint and (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to your gross monthly benefit.

(c) **Option three: Joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to (~~fifty~~) 50 percent of your gross monthly benefit.

(d) **Option four: Joint and two-thirds survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to two-thirds (66.667%) of your gross monthly benefit.

(3) **Do I need my spouse's consent on the option I choose?** The option you select will determine whether spousal consent is required.

(a) If you are married and select a nonsurvivor benefit option, you must provide your spouse's consent, verified by a notarized signature or other means acceptable to the department. If you do not provide verified spousal consent, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and fifty percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.37.170(2).

(b) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for your spouse, spousal consent is not required. The department will pay you a monthly benefit based on the option you selected.

(c) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for someone other than your spouse, spousal consent is required. If you do not provide spousal consent, verified by a notarized signature or other means acceptable to the department, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.37.170(2).

(d) If your survivor beneficiary has been designated by a dissolution order according to subsection (4) of this section, which was filed with the department at least (~~thirty~~) 30 days before your retirement date, spousal consent is not required.

(4) Can a dissolution order require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary? Yes. A dissolution order may require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary. The department is required to pay survivor benefits to a former spouse pursuant to a dissolution order that complies with RCW 41.50.790.

(5) What happens if I choose a benefit with a survivor option and my survivor beneficiary dies before I do? If your survivor beneficiary dies before you do, you may request to have your benefit increased as described in WAC 415-02-380.

(6) May I change my benefit option after retirement? Your choice of a benefit option is irrevocable with the following (~~three~~) four exceptions:

(a) **Return to membership.** If you retire and then return to membership for at least two years of uninterrupted service, you may choose a different retirement option upon your subsequent retirement. See RCW 41.37.050(3).

(b) **Postretirement marriage option.** If you select the standard benefit option at the time of retirement and marry after retirement, you may select a survivor benefit option and name your current spouse as survivor beneficiary, provided that:

(i) Your benefit is not subject to a property division obligation pursuant to a dissolution order. See WAC 415-02-500;

(ii) The selection is made during a one-year window, on or after the date of the first anniversary and before the second anniversary of your postretirement marriage;

(iii) You provide a copy of your certified marriage certificate to the department; and

(iv) You provide proof of your current spouse's birth date.

(c) **Removal of a nonspouse survivor option.** If you select a survivor benefit option and name a nonspouse as your survivor beneficiary at the time of retirement, you may remove that survivor beneficiary designation and have your benefit adjusted to a standard benefit. You may exercise this option one time only.

(d) One-time change of survivor. You may change your benefit option and/or designated survivor one time within 90 days from the date your first benefit payment is issued. Your change request must be in writing, and must comply with other requirements as described in this section. Your new benefit amount will be effective the first of the month following the receipt of your request by the department.

(7) Who will receive the balance of my accumulated contributions, if any, after my death?

(a) If you do not have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and you die before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(i) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) you have nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(ii) If you have not designated a beneficiary, or if your designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your surviving spouse.

(iii) If not paid according to (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, then to your estate.

(b) If you have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and your survivor beneficiary dies before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(i) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) your survivor beneficiary has nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(ii) If your survivor beneficiary has not designated a beneficiary, or if the designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your survivor beneficiary's spouse.

(iii) If not paid according to (b)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, then to your survivor beneficiary's estate. See RCW 41.37.170.

WAC 415-108-326 What are my retirement benefit options? Upon retirement for service under RCW 41.40.180, 41.40.630, or 41.40.820, or for disability under RCW 41.40.210, 41.40.230, 41.40.670, or 41.40.825, you must choose to have the defined benefit portion of your retirement benefit paid to you by one of the options described in this section. If you are a Plan 1 member, you may also select an optional supplemental cost of living adjustment (COLA).

(1) **Which option will pay my beneficiary a monthly benefit after my death?** Options described in subsection (2)(b) through (d) of this section will pay a monthly benefit to your survivor after your death. The person you name at the time of retirement to receive a monthly benefit after your death is referred to as your "survivor beneficiary." After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a monthly benefit for the duration of their life. Your monthly retirement benefit will be reduced to offset the cost of the survivor option. See WAC 415-02-380 for more information on how your monthly benefit will be affected if you choose a survivor option.

(2) **What are my benefit options?**

(a) **Option one: Standard benefit (nonsurvivor option).** The department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. Your monthly benefit will cease upon your death.

(b) **Option two: Joint and (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to your gross monthly benefit.

(c) **Option three: Joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to (~~fifty~~) 50 percent of your gross monthly benefit.

(d) **Option four: Joint and two-thirds survivor benefit.**¹ The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to two-thirds (66.667%) of your gross monthly benefit.

(3) **Do I need my spouse's consent on the option I choose?** The option you select will determine whether spousal consent is required.

(a) If you are married and select a nonsurvivor benefit option, you must provide your spouse's consent, verified by a notarized signature or other means acceptable to the department. If you do not provide spousal consent, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.40.188, 41.40.660 and 41.40.845.

(b) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for your spouse, spousal consent is not required. The department will pay you a monthly benefit based on the option you selected.

(c) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for someone other than your spouse, spousal consent is required. If you do not provide spousal consent, verified by a notarized signature or other means acceptable to the department, the department will pay you a

monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and ((fifty)) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.40.188, 41.40.660 and 41.40.845.

(d) If your survivor beneficiary has been designated by a dissolution order according to subsection (4) of this section, which was filed with the department at least ((thirty)) 30 days before your retirement date, spousal consent is not required.

(4) **Can a dissolution order require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary?** Yes. A dissolution order may require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary. The department is required to pay survivor benefits to a former spouse pursuant to a dissolution order that complies with RCW 41.50.790.

(5) **What is the supplemental COLA option for Plan 1 members?** If you are a Plan 1 member, in addition to choosing a retirement benefit option described in subsection (2) of this section, you may choose to receive a supplemental annual COLA. If you select this option, your monthly retirement benefit will be actuarially reduced to offset the cost of this benefit.

(6) **What happens if I choose a benefit with a survivor option and my survivor beneficiary dies before I do?** If your survivor beneficiary dies before you do, you may request to have your benefit increased as described in WAC 415-02-380.

(7) **May I change my benefit option after retirement?** Your choice of a benefit option is irrevocable with the following ((three)) four exceptions:

(a) **Return to membership.** If you retire and then return to membership for at least two years of uninterrupted service, you may choose a different retirement option upon your subsequent retirement. See RCW 41.40.037.

(b) **Postretirement marriage option.** If you select the standard benefit option at the time of retirement and marry after retirement, you may select a survivor benefit option and name your current spouse as survivor beneficiary, provided that:

(i) Your benefit is not subject to a property division obligation pursuant to a dissolution order. See WAC 415-02-500;

(ii) The selection is made during a one-year window, on or after the date of the first anniversary and before the second anniversary of your postretirement marriage;

(iii) You provide a copy of your certified marriage certificate to the department; and

(iv) You provide proof of your current spouse's birth date.

(c) **Removal of a nonspouse survivor option.** If you select a survivor benefit option and name a nonspouse as your survivor beneficiary at the time of retirement, you may remove that survivor beneficiary designation and have your benefit adjusted to a standard benefit. You may exercise this option one time only.

(d) One-time change of survivor. You may change your benefit option and/or designated survivor one time within 90 days from the date your first benefit payment is issued. Your change request must be in writing, and must comply with other requirements as described in this section. Your new benefit amount will be effective the first of the month following the receipt of your request by the department.

(8) **Who will receive the balance of my accumulated contributions, if any, after my death?**

(a) **Plan 1 and 2 members:**

(i) If you do not have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and you die before the total of the retirement benefit paid

equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(A) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) you have nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(B) If you have not designated a beneficiary, or if your designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your surviving spouse.

(C) If not paid according to (a)(i)(A) or (B) of this subsection, then to your estate.

(ii) If you have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and your survivor beneficiary dies before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(A) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) your survivor beneficiary has nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(B) If your survivor beneficiary has not designated a beneficiary, or if the designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your survivor beneficiary's spouse.

(C) If not paid according to (a)(ii)(A) or (B) of this subsection, then to your survivor beneficiary's estate.

(b) **Plan 3 members:** The defined benefit stops upon your death or upon the death of your survivor beneficiary, if applicable. As a Plan 3 member, you do not contribute to the defined benefit portion of your retirement benefit. The defined contribution portion of your benefit will be distributed according to WAC 415-111-310.

(9) For more information, see RCW 41.40.188 (Plan 1), RCW 41.40.660 (Plan 2) and RCW 41.40.845 (Plan 3).

¹ Available to members retiring on or after January 1, 1996.

WAC 415-110-610 What are my retirement benefit options? Upon retirement for service under RCW 41.35.420 or 41.35.680, or for disability under RCW 41.35.440 or 41.35.690, you must choose to have the defined benefit portion of your retirement benefit paid to you by one of the options described in this section.

(1) **Which option will pay my beneficiary a monthly benefit after my death?** Options described in subsection (2)(b) through (d) of this section will pay a monthly benefit to your survivor after your death. The person you name at the time of retirement to receive a monthly benefit after your death is referred to as your "survivor beneficiary." After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a monthly benefit for the duration of their life. Your monthly retirement benefit will be reduced to offset the cost of the survivor option. See WAC 415-02-380 for more information on how your monthly benefit will be affected if you choose a survivor option.

(2) **What are my benefit options?**

(a) **Option one: Standard benefit (nonsurvivor option).** The department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. Your monthly benefit will cease upon your death.

(b) **Option two: Joint and (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to your gross monthly benefit.

(c) **Option three: Joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to (~~fifty~~) 50 percent of your gross monthly benefit.

(d) **Option four: Joint and two-thirds survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to two-thirds (66.667%) of your gross monthly benefit.

(3) **Do I need my spouse's consent on the option I choose?** The option you select will determine whether spousal consent is required.

(a) If you are married and select a nonsurvivor benefit option, you must provide your spouse's consent, verified by a notarized signature or other means acceptable to the department. If you do not provide verified spousal consent, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.35.220.

(b) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for your spouse, spousal consent is not required. The department will pay you a monthly benefit based on the option you selected.

(c) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for someone other than your spouse, spousal consent is required, verified by a notarized signature or other means acceptable to the department. If you do not provide verified spousal consent, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.35.220.

(d) If your survivor beneficiary has been designated by a dissolution order according to subsection (4) of this section, which was filed with the department at least (~~thirty~~) 30 days before your retirement date, spousal consent is not required.

(4) **Can a dissolution order require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary?** Yes. A dissolution order may require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary. The department is required to pay survivor benefits to a former spouse pursuant to a dissolution order that complies with RCW 41.50.790.

(5) **What happens if I choose a benefit option with a survivor option and my survivor beneficiary dies before I do?** If your survivor beneficiary dies before you do, you may request to have your benefit increased as described in WAC 415-02-380.

(6) **May I change my benefit option after retirement?** Your choice of a benefit option is irrevocable with the following (~~three~~) four exceptions:

(a) **Return to membership.** If you retire and then return to membership for at least two years of uninterrupted service, you may choose a different retirement option upon your subsequent retirement. See RCW 41.35.060.

(b) **Postretirement marriage option.** If you select the standard benefit option at the time of retirement and marry after retirement, you may select a survivor benefit option and name your current spouse as survivor beneficiary, provided that:

(i) Your benefit is not subject to a property division obligation pursuant to a dissolution order. See WAC 415-01-500;

(ii) The selection is made during a one-year window, on or after the date of the first anniversary and before the second anniversary of your postretirement marriage;

(iii) You provide a copy of your certified marriage certificate to the department; and

(iv) You provide proof of your current spouse's birth date.

(c) **Removal of a nonspouse survivor option.** If you select a survivor benefit option and name a nonspouse as your survivor beneficiary at the time of retirement, you may remove that survivor beneficiary designation and have your benefit adjusted to a standard benefit. You may exercise this option one time only.

(d) One-time change of survivor. You may change your benefit option and/or designated survivor one time within 90 days from the date your first benefit payment is issued. Your change request must be in writing, and must comply with other requirements as described in this section. Your new benefit amount will be effective the first of the month following the receipt of your request by the department.

(7) **Who will receive the balance of my accumulated contributions, if any, after my death?**

(a) **Plan 2 members:**

(i) If you do not have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and you die before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(A) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) you have nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(B) If you have not designated a beneficiary, or if your designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your surviving spouse.

(C) If not paid according to (a)(i)(A) or (B) of this subsection, then to your estate.

(ii) If you have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and your survivor beneficiary dies before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(A) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) your survivor beneficiary has nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(B) If your survivor beneficiary has not designated a beneficiary, or if the designated beneficiary is no longer living or in existence, then to your survivor beneficiary's spouse.

(C) If not paid according to (a)(ii)(A) or (B) of this subsection, then to your survivor beneficiary's estate.

(b) **Plan 3 members:** The defined benefit stops upon your death or upon the death of your survivor beneficiary, if applicable. As a Plan 3 member, you do not contribute to the defined benefit portion of your retirement benefit. The defined contribution portion of your benefit will be distributed according to WAC 415-111-310.

(8) For more information, see RCW 41.35.220.

WAC 415-112-505 What are my TRS Plan 2 or Plan 3 retirement benefit options? Upon retirement for service under RCW 41.32.765 or 41.32.875, or disability under RCW 41.32.790 or 41.32.880, you must choose to have the defined benefit portion of your retirement benefit paid to you by one of the options described in this section.

(1) **Which option will pay my beneficiary a monthly benefit after my death?** Options described in subsection (2)(b), (c), and (d) of this section will pay a monthly benefit to your survivor after your death. The person you name at the time of retirement to receive a monthly benefit after your death is referred to as your "survivor beneficiary." After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a monthly benefit for the duration of their life. Your monthly retirement benefit will be reduced to offset the cost of the survivor option. See WAC 415-02-380 for more information on how your monthly benefit will be affected if you choose a survivor option.

(2) **What are my benefit options?**

(a) **Option one: Standard benefit for service retirement (nonsurvivor option).** The department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. Your monthly benefit will cease upon your death, and any remaining balance of accumulated contributions will be paid according to subsection (7) of this section.

(b) **Option two: Joint and (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to your gross monthly benefit.

(c) **Option three: Joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent survivor benefit.** The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to (~~fifty~~) 50 percent of your gross monthly benefit.

(d) **Option four: Joint and two-thirds survivor benefit.**¹ The department will pay you a reduced monthly retirement benefit throughout your lifetime. After your death, your survivor beneficiary will receive a gross monthly benefit equal to two-thirds (66.667%) of your gross monthly benefit.

(3) **Do I need my spouse's consent on the option I choose?** The option you select will determine whether spousal consent is required.

(a) If you are married and select a nonsurvivor benefit option, you must provide your spouse's consent, verified by a notarized signature or other means acceptable to the department. If you do not provide verified spousal consent, the department will pay you a monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and (~~fifty~~) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.32.785(2) and 41.32.851(2).

(b) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for your spouse, spousal consent is not required. The department will pay you a monthly benefit based on the option you selected.

(c) If you are married and select a survivor benefit option for someone other than your spouse, spousal consent is required. If you do not provide spousal consent, verified by a notarized signature or other means acceptable to the department, the department will pay you a

monthly retirement benefit based on option three (joint and ((fifty)) 50 percent benefit) with your spouse as the survivor beneficiary as required by RCW 41.32.785(2) and 41.32.851(2).

(d) If your survivor beneficiary has been designated by a dissolution order under RCW 41.50.790, which was filed with the department at least ((thirty)) 30 days before your retirement date, spousal consent is not required.

(4) **Can a dissolution order require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary?** Yes. A dissolution order may require that a former spouse be designated as a survivor beneficiary. The department is required to pay survivor benefits to a former spouse pursuant to a dissolution order that complies with RCW 41.50.790.

(5) **What happens if I choose a benefit option with a survivor option and my survivor beneficiary dies before I do?** If your survivor beneficiary dies before you do, you may request to have your benefit increased as described in WAC 415-02-380.

(6) **May I change my benefit option after retirement?** Your choice of a benefit option is irrevocable with the following ((three)) four exceptions:

(a) **Return to membership.** If you retire and then return to membership, you may choose a different retirement option upon your subsequent retirement. See RCW 41.32.044.

(b) **Postretirement marriage option.** If you select the standard benefit option at the time of retirement and marry after retirement, you may select a benefit option with a survivor option and name your current spouse as survivor beneficiary, provided that:

(i) Your benefit is not subject to a property division obligation pursuant to a dissolution order. See WAC 415-02-500;

(ii) The selection is made during a one-year window, on or after the date of the first anniversary and before the second anniversary of your postretirement marriage;

(iii) You provide a copy of your certified marriage certificate to the department;

(iv) You provide proof of your current spouse's birth date; and

(v) You exercise this option one time only.

(c) **Removal of a nonspouse survivor option.** If you select a benefit option with a survivor option and name a nonspouse as survivor beneficiary at the time of retirement, you may remove that survivor beneficiary designation and have your benefit adjusted to a standard benefit. You may exercise this option one time only.

(d) One-time change of survivor. You may change your benefit option and/or designated survivor one time within 90 days from the date your first benefit payment is issued. Your change request must be in writing, and must comply with other requirements as described in this section. Your new benefit amount will be effective the first of the month following the receipt of your request by the department.

(7) **Who will receive the balance of my accumulated contributions, if any, after my death?**

(a) **Plan 2:**

(i) If you do not have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and you die before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(A) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) you have nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(B) If you have not designated a beneficiary, or if your designated beneficiary is no longer living, then to your surviving spouse.

(C) If not paid according to (a)(i)(A) or (B) of this subsection, then to your estate.

(ii) If you have a survivor beneficiary at the time of your death, and your survivor beneficiary dies before the total of the retirement benefit paid equals the amount of your accumulated contributions at the time of retirement, the balance will be paid:

(A) To the person or entity (i.e., trust, organization, or estate) your survivor beneficiary has nominated by written designation, executed and filed with the department.

(B) If your survivor beneficiary has not designated a beneficiary, or if the designated beneficiary is no longer living, then to your survivor beneficiary's spouse.

(C) If not paid according to (a)(ii)(A) or (B) of this subsection, then to your survivor beneficiary's estate.

(b) **Plan 3:** The defined benefit stops upon your death or upon the death of your survivor beneficiary, if applicable. As a Plan 3 member, you do not contribute to the defined benefit portion of your retirement benefit. The defined contribution portion of your benefit will be distributed according to WAC 415-111-310.

(8) For more information, see RCW 41.32.785 and 41.32.790 (Plan 2) and RCW 41.32.851 (Plan 3).

¹ Available to members retiring on or after January 1, 1996.