



Pension Payment Options



Evaluate Your Choices

All pension calculations begin by figuring your straight life amount. Your straight life amount is then adjusted, depending on which plan or option you choose.

Straight life option: You receive the maximum monthly benefit payable throughout your lifetime. No ongoing pension payments or insurances are provided to your survivors.

Survivor option: You receive a reduced pension throughout your lifetime; however, upon your death your pension and insurances continue for the lifetime of your survivor pension beneficiary.

If you elect a survivor option, upon your death your survivor will receive either 100%, 75%, or 50% of your monthly pension payment, depending on the survivor option you select.

If you're married, you and your spouse may have to sign a spousal waiver form depending on the pension payment option you choose. (See the back of this sheet for details.) You can name your spouse, child, sibling, or parent as beneficiary.

After your retirement effective date, you can't change your payment option or your survivor pension beneficiary. If your beneficiary dies before you, your pension increases to the straight life amount.

Let's look at an example:

Ben plans to retire at age 62 with a full pension. He's got an important decision to make about his pension payments. Ben's decision will affect him and his wife, Mila, 61. Here are his options:

Pension Payment Options	Ben's Monthly Pension	Mila's Monthly Pension After Ben's Death	Will Insurance Benefits Continue For Mila?	Spousal Waiver Required?
Straight Life	\$1,651.31	\$ 0.00	No	Yes
100% Survivor Option	\$1,354.07	\$1,354.07	Yes	No
75% Survivor Option	\$1,436.64	\$1,077.48	Yes	Yes
50% Survivor Option	\$1,486.18	\$ 743.09	Yes	Yes

Note: These numbers are for illustration purposes only. The monthly pension amount for a survivor option is based on life expectancy tables that factor in life expectancies for you and your beneficiary. When you use the Estimate Pension feature in miAccount, or run an estimate as part of applying for retirement, the factor associated with your age and beneficiary's age will be used in the calculation. You can also use the survivor option factor lookup tool on our website to view the factor based on the ages you enter.

Spousal Waiver

If you're married and name someone other than your spouse as your beneficiary, or you elect any option other than the 100% survivor option, your spouse must waive his or her right to your pension by signing the *Pension Election and Spousal Waiver (R0869C)* form in the presence of a notary public. You must also sign the form in front of a notary public.

The three most common mistakes we see are:

1. Eraser marks or visible corrections.
2. Missing signature(s).
3. The signature dates don't match for the applicant and notary or for the spouse and notary (see image below).

E. Certification-STOP- ALL signatures must be notarized below.

Spousal Authorization of Option Election:

Spouse's Signature: *Spouse's Signature*
Date Signed: **Date A**

Applicant's Certification:

Applicant's Signature: *My Signature*
Date Signed: **Date B**

Spouse's Signature Notarization **Applicant's Signature Notarization**

Date A **Date B**
Notary Signature: _____ Notary Signature: _____

After your retirement effective date, you can't change your payment option or beneficiary.

Tips to avoid these errors:

Print two or more copies of the waiver form and take them with you to the notary. If you, your spouse, or the notary makes an error, you can start over with a blank copy.

We cannot complete processing your retirement application until a good version of this form is on file with our office.



Michigan.gov/ORS
Facebook.com/MichiganORS
Twitter.com/MichiganORS



PO Box 30171
Lansing, MI 48909-7671



Phone: 800-381-5111
Fax: 517-284-4416