


Death claims: payments to beneficiaries


Retirement Benefits Training
Fiscal year 2026




Serving those who serve South Carolina

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Retired member payment options¹



Option A
Beneficiary receives
refund of remaining
contributions.



Option B
Beneficiary receives
same reduced lifetime
monthly payment
amount retiree
received before death.



Option C
Beneficiary receives
half of reduced
lifetime monthly
payment amount
retiree received
before death.

¹Death claim payments to beneficiaries are applicable only to defined benefit plans.
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Active death payment options

- PEBA mails *Election of Death Benefits* (Form 4151) to the beneficiary after receiving all documentation to process death claim.
- Death claim payment options are paid to the designated beneficiary on file at PEBA.
- If no beneficiary is named, or the named beneficiary predeceases the member, the beneficiary will default to the member's estate.
- If multiple beneficiaries are named:
 - All must choose same payment option on Form 4151.
 - Payments cannot be made until all beneficiaries have returned the form.
 - Payment divided equally.

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Estates and benefit payments

- Member's estate receives:
 - A refund of contributions plus interest (defined benefit plans); and
 - Any incidental death benefit payment, if applicable.
- Person handling the estate must submit one of following¹:
 - *Certificate of Appointment for the Personal Representative*, or
 - *Affidavit for Collection of Personal Property* for estates of less than \$25,000.
- Estate cannot receive monthly benefit payments from defined benefit plans.

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