

## § 19.5

principal elects to make payments to the Fund for this service;

(b) The entire period of Government service for which a principal received a refund of retirement contributions which he/she has not repaid unless the former spouse received under §19.13 a portion of the (lump-sum) refund or unless a spousal agreement or court order provided that no portion of the refund be paid to the former spouse; and

(c) All creditable service including service in excess of 35 years.

The period covered by the credit for unused sick leave is not creditable for this purpose.

### § 19.5 Required notifications to Department respecting spouses and former spouses.

#### § 19.5-1 Notification from participant or annuitant.

If a participant or former participant becomes divorced on or after February 15, 1981, he/she shall notify the Department (PER/ER/RET) of the divorce on or prior to its effective date. The notice shall include the effective date of the divorce, the full name, mailing address, and date of birth of the former spouse and the date of the member's marriage to that person, and enclose a certified copy of the divorce decree. If there is a court order or spousal agreement concerning payment or non-payment of Foreign Service benefits to the former spouse, the original or a certified copy of the order or agreement shall also be forwarded to PER/ER/RET. In the absence of a court order or spousal agreement providing otherwise, the Department will pay a pro rata share of the member's benefits to the former spouse. (A former spouse of a former participant who separated from the Service on or before February 15, 1981 is not eligible for a pension under §19.9, *i.e.*, not eligible for a pro rata share of the principal's annuity.) Upon receipt of notice of a divorce, a court order, or spousal agreement, the Department will proceed as indicated in §19.6 or §19.7. Delinquent notice to the Department of the divorce of an annuitant will result in retroactive payments to any qualified former spouse to the extent that the retroactive payments can be deducted from future an-

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nity payments to the principal as stated in §19.6-4.

### § 19.5-2 Notification to Department from former spouses.

A former spouse is obligated to notify the Department of the following on a timely basis:

(a) A divorce from a participant or former participant when the former spouse is notified by the court of the divorce before the participant is notified;

(b) Any change in address; and

(c) Any remarriage.

Notices shall be sent to the Department of State, Attention PER/ER/RET, Washington, DC 20520.

### § 19.5-3 Residence of spouse during service at unhealthful post.

(a) The calculation of the pro rata share of benefits for a former spouse, and the determination of whether a person qualifies as a "former spouse" depends on the length of the marriage. The latter, under the definition in the Act and when the principal has received extra service credit for an assignment to an unhealthful post, depends upon whether a spouse has resided with the principal at the unhealthful post. In order to determine residency for this purpose, whenever a married participant is assigned to an unhealthful post for which he/she *does not* receive post differential and *does* receive or request extra service credit, the participant shall report on Form OF-140, Election to Receive Extra Service Credit Towards Retirement, whether his/her spouse is or is not residing at the post. Although a chief of mission is not required to submit Form OF-140 in order to receive extra credit for service at an unhealthful post, he/she must nevertheless submit this form if the chief of mission has a spouse that does not accompany him/her at post for the entire assignment. Both the participant and spouse shall sign the completed form. If there is a change in residence of the spouse during the assignment, a new joint Form OF-140 shall be filed to report the change.

(b) Whenever a participant retires or becomes divorced, or whenever a former participant becomes divorced