

## § 831.601

systems, the comparison rate of the grade or pay level that is two grades below that of the current position will be compared with the comparison rate of the grade or pay level of the offered position. For this purpose, “comparison rate” has the meaning given that term in § 536.103 of this chapter, except paragraph (2) of that definition should be used for the purpose of comparing grade or levels of work in making reasonable offer determinations in all situations not covered by paragraph (1) of that definition.

[48 FR 38786, Aug. 26, 1983. Redesignated and amended at 58 FR 49179, Sept. 22, 1993; 70 FR 31315, May 31, 2005; 73 FR 66156, Nov. 7, 2008]

### Subpart F—Survivor Annuities

SOURCE: 50 FR 20070, May 13, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

#### ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF REGULATIONS ON SURVIVOR ANNUITIES

#### § 831.601 Purpose and scope.

(a) This subpart explains the annuity benefits payable in the event of the death of employees, retirees, and Members; the actions that employees, retirees, Members, and their current spouses, former spouses, and eligible children must take to qualify for survivor annuities; and the types of evidence required to demonstrate entitlement to provide survivor annuities or qualify for survivor annuities.

(b) Unless otherwise specified, this subpart, except §§ 831.682 and 831.683 and the provisions relating to children’s survivor annuities, only applies to employees and Members who retire under a provision of law that permits election of a reduced annuity to provide a survivor annuity.

[55 FR 9099, Mar. 12, 1990, as amended at 58 FR 52880, Oct. 13, 1993]

#### § 831.602 Relation to other regulations.

(a) Part 838 of this chapter contains information about former spouses’ entitlement to survivor annuities based on provisions in court orders or court-approved property settlement agreements.

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(b) Subpart T of this part contains information about entitlement to lump-sum death benefits.

(c) Parts 870, 871, 872 and 873 of this chapter contain information about coverage under the Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance Program.

(d) Part 890 of this chapter contains information about coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

(e) Section 831.109 contains information about the administrative review rights available to a person who has been denied a survivor annuity or an opportunity to make an election under this subpart.

(f) Subparts C and U of this part contain information about service credit deposits by survivors of employees or Members.

[50 FR 20070, May 13, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 31931, Sept. 8, 1986; 58 FR 43493, Aug. 17, 1993]

#### § 831.603 Definitions.

As used in this subpart—

*CSRS* means subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code.

*Current spouse* means a living person who is married to the employee, Member, or retiree at the time of the employee’s, Member’s, or retiree’s death.

*Current spouse annuity* means a recurring benefit under CSRS that is payable (after the employee’s, Member’s, or retiree’s death) to a current spouse who meets the requirements of § 831.642.

*Deposit* means a deposit required by the Civil Service Retirement Spouse Equity Act of 1984, Pub. L. 98–615, 98 Stat. 3195. *Deposit*, as used in this subpart does not include a service credit deposit or redeposit under sections 8334(c) or (d) of title 5, United States Code.

*First regular monthly payment* means the first annuity check payable on a recurring basis (other than an estimated payment or an adjustment check) after OPM has initially adjudicated the regular rate of annuity payable under CSRS and has paid the annuity accrued since the time of retirement. The “first regular monthly payment” is generally preceded by estimated payments before the claim can be adjudicated and by an adjustment

check (including the difference between the estimated rate and the initially adjudicated rate).

*Former spouse* means a living person who was married for at least 9 months to an employee, Member, or retiree who performed at least 18 months of creditable service in a position covered by CSRS and whose marriage to the employee was terminated prior to the death of the employee, Member, or retiree. Except in §§ 831.682 and 831.683, *former spouse* includes only persons who were married to an employee or Member on or after May 7, 1985, or who were the spouse of a retiree who retired on or after May 7, 1985, regardless of the date of termination of the marriage.

*Former spouse annuity* means a recurring benefit under CSRS that is payable to a former spouse after the employee's, Member's, or retiree's death.

*Fully reduced annuity* means the recurring payments under CSRS received by a retiree who has elected the maximum allowable reduction in annuity to provide a current spouse annuity and/or a former spouse annuity or annuities.

*Insurable interest annuity* means the recurring payments under CSRS to a retiree who has elected a reduction in annuity to provide a survivor annuity to a person with an insurable interest in the retiree.

*Marriage* means a marriage recognized in law or equity under the whole law of the jurisdiction with the most significant interest in the marital status of the employee, Member, or retiree unless the law of that jurisdiction is contrary to the public policy of the United States. If a jurisdiction would recognize more than one marriage in law or equity, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will recognize only one marriage, but will defer to the local courts to determine which marriage should be recognized.

*Member* means a Member of Congress.

*Net annuity* means the net annuity as defined in § 838.103 of this chapter.

*Partially reduced annuity* means the recurring payments under CSRS to a retiree who has elected less than the maximum allowable reduction in annuity to provide a current spouse annuity or a former spouse annuity.

*Present value factor* means the amount of money (earning interest at an assumed rate) required at the time of retirement to fund an annuity that starts out at the rate of \$1 a month and is payable in monthly installments for the annuitant's lifetime based on mortality rates for non-disability annuitants under the Civil Service Retirement System; and increases each year at an assumed rate of inflation. Interest, mortality, and inflation rates used in computing the present value are those used by the Board of Actuaries of the Civil Service Retirement System for valuation of the System, based on dynamic assumptions. The present value factors are unisex factors obtained by averaging six distinct present value factors, weighted by the total dollar value of annuities typically paid to new retirees at each age.

*Qualifying court order* means a court order that awards a former spouse annuity and that satisfies the requirements of section 8341(h) of title 5, United States Code, for awarding a former spouse annuity.

*Retiree* means a former employee or Member who is receiving recurring payments under CSRS based on service by the employee or Member. "Retiree," as used in this subpart, does not include a current spouse, former spouse, child, or person with an insurable interest receiving a survivor annuity.

*Self-only annuity* means the recurring unreduced payments under CSRS to a retiree with no survivor annuity to anyone.

*Time of retirement* means the effective commencing date for a retired employee's or Member's annuity.

[50 FR 20070, May 13, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 31931, Sept. 8, 1986; 57 FR 33597-33598, July 29, 1992; 58 FR 52880, Oct. 13, 1993]

#### ELECTIONS AT THE TIME OF RETIREMENT

##### **§ 831.611 Election at time of retirement of fully reduced annuity to provide a current spouse annuity.**

(a) A married employee or Member retiring under CSRS will receive a fully reduced annuity to provide a current spouse annuity unless—

(1) The employee or Member, with the consent of the current spouse, elects a self-only annuity, a partially