

## Ready to Retire?

- ✓ Request a Benefit Estimate 6 to 12 months before you expect to retire.
- ✓ Make an appointment for a retirement counseling session or request a Retirement Application Package.
- ✓ Select a Benefit Payment Option and retirement date.
- ✓ Review the requirements about retiring and returning to work.
- ✓ File your completed Retirement Application. You must apply to receive benefits; they do not begin automatically. MainePERS prefers to receive your application at least two to three months before your expected retirement date.
- ✓ MainePERS will confirm receipt of your application.
- ✓ You may be able to receive a preliminary benefit in the month you retire. You will continue to receive this amount until we determine your final benefit amount.
- ✓ MainePERS will send you a Notice of Retirement indicating your final benefit amount. Your next payment will include the final benefit amount plus a retroactive payment if there is a difference between your preliminary and final benefit.
- ✓ MainePERS will transfer your payment electronically to your bank at the end of each month. Four times a year you will receive an "advice of deposit" showing all the deductions from your gross amount.



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## Choosing a Benefit Payment Option When You Retire

When you retire, you can choose to reserve the maximum amount of your benefit for yourself, or take one of several "reduced benefit" payment options. A reduced benefit is a way for your beneficiary to continue receiving a payment after your death. Since it's not possible for MainePERS to fully understand each member's unique circumstances, we do not advise members on which option to select.

This is an important one-time decision; please consider each option carefully. Our staff can help your decision process by explaining each benefit payment option in more detail.

You might consider the following when selecting an option:

- ◆ **What part will your MainePERS retirement benefit play in meeting your income needs? Will you have other income during retirement?**
  - ◆ Social Security
  - ◆ 401(k)
  - ◆ Roth IRA
  - ◆ Post-Retirement Employment
  - ◆ Savings
  - ◆ Investments
  - ◆ Deferred Compensation Plans (e.g. MaineSTART)
- ◆ **Do you have a beneficiary who is financially dependent on you? If yes, what part will your MainePERS benefit play? What other means of providing for them do you have?**
  - ◆ Life Insurance
  - ◆ Investments
  - ◆ Savings
  - ◆ Other Retirement Plans (theirs or yours)
- ◆ **If your beneficiary were to die first, would you need to replace any of their income/benefits to meet your financial needs?**

✓ Benefit Paid Monthly

✓ Options 1-8 Reduced from Full Benefit

## Benefit Payment Options

✓ Lifetime benefit for you

✓ Most options payable for beneficiary's lifetime

### Full Benefit

### No Income for a Beneficiary.

### Option 1

Provides you with the highest retirement benefit, but nothing for a beneficiary. All benefits stop effective the first of the month following your death, regardless of the number of benefit payments you received. (Options 1-8 are reduced from this amount.)

If, at the time of your death, any of the contributions you made to the system, or the interest accrued on those contributions, remain on account, a one-time lump-sum payment will be made to your surviving beneficiary(ies). The amount of time it takes to use all of your contributions depends on your age at retirement. Your contributions are reduced equally each month over a period of time based on your life expectancy.

### Option 2

### Substantial Income for a Beneficiary.

### Option 6

The same amount you are receiving at the time of your death continues until the death of your designated beneficiary(ies). Under this option, if your beneficiary(ies) dies first, you continue to receive the same amount you were at the time of his/her death.

Like Option 2, except your benefit will increase to the Full Benefit amount in the event that your beneficiary dies before you.

### Option 3

### Supplement the Income for a Beneficiary.

### Option 7

One half of the amount you are receiving at the time of your death continues until the death of your designated beneficiary(ies). Under this option, if your beneficiary(ies) dies first, you continue to receive the same amount you were at the time of his/her death.

Like Option 3, except your benefit will increase to the Full Benefit amount in the event that your beneficiary dies before you.

### Option 4

### Income for a Beneficiary Based on a Selected Percentage.

### Option 8

A percentage of the benefit you are receiving at the time of your death continues until the death of your beneficiary(ies). You designate the percentage to continue to your beneficiary when you retire. Under this option, if your beneficiary(ies) dies first, you continue to receive the same amount you were at the time of his/her death.

Like Option 4, except your benefit will increase to the Full Benefit amount in the event that your beneficiary dies before you.

### Option 5

### Immediate Lifetime Income Supplement to a Beneficiary.

A monthly benefit that is shared by you and your beneficiary while you both are living. Each month you both receive a percentage you designate at retirement. Following the first death, whether it be yours or your beneficiary's, the payment of the smaller percentage stops and the survivor continues to receive the remaining (higher) percentage for the remainder of his/her lifetime. Note: The percentage you designate to your beneficiary cannot be more than 49%.