

**Florida Retirement System Pension Plan
Application for Service Retirement and the
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)**

PO BOX 9000 Tallahassee, FL 32315-9000
Local Phone: 850-907-6500 Toll Free: 844-377-1888 FAX: 850-410-2010

All of the following are **required** before you can retire and become a DROP participant.

1. A properly completed Form DP-ELE, Notice of Election to Participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) and Resignation of Employment (if you have not previously submitted one). If you are dually employed with one or more Florida Retirement System (FRS) employer(s), **each** employer must complete the employer's portion of a Form DP-ELE and Form DP-11.
2. A properly completed Application for Service Retirement and the DROP, Form DP-11. The DP-11 must be signed in the presence of a notary public and approved by your employer. Since your DROP participation cannot be retroactive, you should send the DP-11 to the Division of Retirement prior to the first day of the month your DROP will begin even if you do not have the other required documents. The DP-11 will be accepted up to six months before your DROP participation date.
3. A properly completed Option Selection for Members, Form FRS-11o. An explanation of the options is on the attached page titled "What Retirement Option Should You Choose."
4. A properly completed Spousal Acknowledgment Form, Form SA-1. You must complete and sign the top portion in the presence of a notary. If you are married and select option 1 or 2, your spouse should complete the bottom portion in the presence of a notary.
5. A check payable to the Florida Retirement System for any amount you owe, or a written statement that you do not wish to claim the service. Please put your social security number on the face of the check. You may roll over funds from a qualified plan (IRA, deferred compensation, etc.) to pay the amount due. Form PRO-1, Pretax Direct Rollover, must be received with the payment.
6. Proof of your birth date. If you select Option 3 or 4, you must also submit birth date verification for your beneficiary. We will accept legible photocopies of **one** of the following (except for i):
 - a. Copy of a birth certificate
 - b. Delayed birth certificate
 - c. Valid, unexpired U.S. passport
 - d. Census report more than 30 years old
 - e. Life Insurance policy more than 30 years
 - f. Letter from the Social Security Administration stating the date of birth it has established for the payment of benefits
 - g. Certificate of Naturalization
 - h. Florida driver's license issued after January 1, 2010 that indicates compliance with the federal REAL ID Act
 - i. In the absence of one of the above, a copy of **two** of the following documents:
 - (1) Birth certificate of child, showing age of parent (limit one)
 - (2) Baptismal certificate more than 30 years old
 - (3) Hospital record of birth
 - (4) School record at time of entering grammar school
7. A copy of your marriage certificate if you selected option 3 or 4 and name your spouse as your joint annuitant.
8. A final certification of your earnings by your employer for the last four months of your employment. **Your employer is aware of this requirement.**
9. A Statement of Military Eligibility will be mailed to you if you claim military service and the form is needed.
10. A Beneficiary Designation, Form FST-12, if designating more than one beneficiary; otherwise complete the **Beneficiary Designation** section of Form DP-11.

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DROP Accrual Distribution Methods

When your participation in DROP begins, your DROP benefit is based on the option selected at retirement (begin date for the DROP), and will accrue, with interest and cost-of-living adjustments, for the duration of your DROP participation. Upon your termination of employment and DROP, you must elect one of the following methods of payment for the DROP benefit within 60 days of your DROP employment termination.

1. Lump sum

All accrued DROP benefits, plus interest, less 20 percent tax remitted to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), shall be paid to the DROP participant or the surviving beneficiary.

2. Direct rollover

All accrued DROP benefits, plus interest, shall be paid from the DROP directly to the custodian of an eligible retirement plan as defined in s. 402(c)(8)(B), Internal Revenue Code (IRC). However, in the case of an eligible rollover distribution to the surviving spouse of a deceased participant, an eligible retirement plan is an individual retirement account or annuity as described in s. 402(c)(9), IRC.

3. Partial lump sum

A portion of the accrued DROP benefits shall be paid to the DROP participant or surviving spouse, less IRS tax and the remaining DROP benefits shall be transferred directly to the custodian of an eligible retirement plan as defined in s. 402(c)(8)(B), IRC. However, in the case of an eligible rollover distribution to the surviving spouse of a deceased participant, an eligible retirement plan is an individual retirement account or annuity as described in s. 402(c)(9), IRC. The proportions shall be specified by the DROP participant or surviving spouse.

If you do not make an election of one of the above methods within the 60-day period, the Division of Retirement will pay directly to you the accrued benefits in a lump sum, less IRS tax. If you fail to terminate in accordance with s. 121.021(39)(b), Florida Statutes (F.S.) on your DROP termination date, **your retirement will be null and void** and your Florida Retirement System membership established retroactively to the date you began DROP.

**Florida Retirement System Pension Plan
Option Selection for FRS Members**



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Member Name _____ Member SSN _____

A member must select one of the following retirement options prior to receipt of their first monthly retirement benefit.

I select:

_____ Option 1: A monthly benefit payable for my lifetime. Upon my death the monthly benefit will stop and my beneficiary will receive only a refund of any contributions I have paid which are in excess of the amount I have received in benefits. This option does not provide a continuing benefit to my beneficiary.

_____ Option 2: A reduced monthly benefit payable for my lifetime. If I die within a period of ten years after my retirement date, my designated beneficiary will receive a monthly benefit in the same amount as I was receiving for the balance of the 10-year period. No further benefits are then payable.

_____ Option 3: A reduced monthly benefit payable for my lifetime. Upon my death, my joint annuitant, if living, will receive a lifetime monthly benefit payment in the same amount as I was receiving. (Exception: The benefit paid to a joint annuitant under age 25, who is not your spouse, will be your option one benefit amount. The benefit will stop when your joint annuitant reaches age 25, unless disabled and incapable of self-support, in which case the benefit will continue for the duration of the disability.) No further benefits are payable after both my joint annuitant and I are deceased.

The social security number of my joint annuitant is _____.

_____ Option 4: An adjusted monthly benefit payable to me while both my joint annuitant and I are living. Upon the death of **either my joint annuitant or me**, the monthly benefit payable to the surviving person (my joint annuitant or me) **is reduced to two-thirds** of the monthly benefit payable while we were both living. (Exception: The benefit paid to a joint annuitant under age 25, who is not your spouse, will be your option one benefit amount. The benefit will stop when your joint annuitant reaches age 25, unless disabled and incapable of self-support, in which case the benefit will continue for the duration of the disability.) No further benefits are payable after both my joint annuitant and I are deceased.

The social security number of my joint annuitant is _____.

COMPLETE AND RETURN FORM SA-1

I understand I must terminate all employment with FRS employers to receive a retirement benefit under Chapter 121, Florida Statutes. I also understand that I **cannot** add service, change options or change my type of retirement (Regular, Disability or Early) once my retirement becomes final. My retirement becomes final when any benefit payment is cashed, deposited or when my Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) participation begins.

Member Signature: (sign in the presence of a Notary) _____

Notary: State of Florida, County of _____, The above named person who has sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____ 20 _____ and is personally known _____ or has produced _____ as identification.

Signature of Notary Public

Print, Type or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

**Florida Retirement System Pension Plan
Spousal Acknowledgment Form**



PO BOX 9000 Tallahassee, FL 32315-9000
Local Phone: 850-907-6500 Toll Free: 844-377-1888 FAX: 850-410-2010

Member Name: _____ Member SSN: _____

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

MARRIED: _____ YES _____ NO IF YES AND YOU SELECTED OPTION 1 OR 2,
YOUR SPOUSE MUST ALSO COMPLETE BOX 2.

Notarized Signature of Member: _____

1 **Notary:** State of Florida, County of _____. The above named person who has sworn to and
subscribed before me this _____ day of _____ 20____ and is personally known _____ or
produced _____ as identification.

Signature of Notary Public - State of Florida

Print, Type or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

SPOUSAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, _____ being the spouse of the above named
member, acknowledge that the member has selected either Option 1 or 2.

Notarized Signature of Spouse: _____

2 **Notary:** State of Florida, County of _____. The above named person who has sworn to and
subscribed before me this _____ day of _____ 20____ and is personally known _____ or
produced _____ as identification.

Signature of Notary Public - State of Florida

Print, Type or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

The following is an explanation of all four Florida Retirement System Options:

- Option 1: A monthly benefit payable for my lifetime. Upon my death, the monthly benefit will stop and my beneficiary will receive only a refund of any contributions I have paid which are in excess of the amount I have received in benefits. This option does not provide a continuing benefit to my beneficiary.
- Option 2: A reduced monthly benefit payable for my lifetime. If I die within a period of ten years after my retirement date, my designated beneficiary will receive a monthly benefit in the same amount as I was receiving for the balance of the 10-year period. No further benefits are then payable.
- Option 3: A reduced monthly benefit payable for my lifetime. Upon my death, my joint annuitant, if living, will receive a lifetime monthly benefit payable in the same amount as I was receiving. (Exception: The benefit paid to a joint annuitant under age 25, who is not your spouse, will be your option one benefit amount. The benefit will stop when your joint annuitant reaches age 25, unless disabled and incapable of self-support, in which case the benefit will continue for the duration of the disability.) No further benefits are payable after both my joint annuitant and I are deceased.
- Option 4: An adjusted monthly benefit payable to me while both my joint annuitant and I are living. Upon the death of either my joint annuitant or me, the monthly benefit payable to the survivor is reduced to two-thirds of the monthly benefit received when both were living. (Exception: The benefit paid to the joint annuitant under age 25, who is not your spouse, will be your option one benefit amount. The benefit will stop when your joint annuitant reaches age 25, unless disabled and incapable of self-support, in which case the benefit will continue for the duration of the disability.) No further benefits are payable after both my joint annuitant and I are deceased.

FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM PENSION PLAN TERMINATION AND REEMPLOYMENT AFTER RETIREMENT

To receive a retirement benefit, including the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) payout, you must terminate all employment, to include but not limited to: part-time work, other personal services (OPS), poll worker, substitute teaching, adjunct professor, or non-Division approved contractual services with all employers participating under the Florida Retirement System (FRS). If you are dually employed with one or more FRS employers, you must terminate this employment as well.

After you retire without participating in DROP (service retirement), or terminate DROP participation, you are subject to the following Termination Requirements and Reemployment restrictions in the first 12 calendar months of your service retirement beginning with the month of your effective retirement date or following your DROP termination date:

Termination Requirements - During the first six calendar months of your service retirement beginning with the month of your effective service retirement date or following your DROP termination date, you cannot be reemployed in any capacity with any FRS participating employer. If you are reemployed with an FRS employer in any capacity during this six calendar month period, your retirement application will be cancelled and you will be required to repay all retirement benefits received including any DROP accumulation or payout. There are no exceptions to the six calendar month termination requirements.

Examples of six month termination requirement period:

- If you retire without participating in DROP and terminate your employment on June 10 and retire effective July 1, you cannot have any employment relationship with any FRS employer during the calendar months of July through December.
- If you terminate DROP on August 31, you cannot have any employment relationship with any FRS employer during the calendar months of September through February.

Reemployment Restrictions - During the seventh through the twelfth calendar months of your service retirement or following your DROP termination date, you may return to work for an FRS participating employer but your retirement benefits shall be suspended for the months you are employed in any capacity with a participating FRS employer. Exceptions for FRS retirees are outlined in Section 121.091(9), Florida Statutes.

There are no restrictions on working for an FRS employer after the twelfth calendar month.

If you retired under the disability provisions of the FRS and become employed with any employer whether public or private, your disability benefit will be discontinued. There are no reemployment exceptions for disability retirees.

When your name is added to the retired payroll, you will receive a "READY.SET.RETIRE." guide that further explains the FRS reemployment provisions.

If you have any questions about the effects of reemployment on your retirement benefits, you may call toll free at (844) 377-1888 or the local number (850) 907-6500, e-mail retirement@dms.myflorida.com or write to:

Division of Retirement
Post Office Box 9000
Tallahassee, Florida 32315-9000

Independent contractors are self-employed individuals in the business of providing services to the general public. After retiring from the FRS Pension Plan you may enter into a contract with any FRS employer as an independent contractor without being subject to the reemployment after retirement provisions. Becoming a contract employee with a FRS employer who receives a Form 1099 instead of a W-2 is not becoming an independent contractor.

If you are considering providing independent contractor services to a FRS employer during the first 12 calendar months of your effective service retirement date or following your DROP termination date, you must complete the Employment Relationship Questionnaire (ERQ-1) and submit a copy of your contract to the Division of Retirement's Enrollment Section for a worker status determination.

CAUTION: DO NOT RETURN TO WORK AS A "CONSULTANT" OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR WITH AN FRS EMPLOYER UNTIL THE DIVISION OF RETIREMENT HAS FIRST PROVIDED YOU A DETERMINATION OF YOUR WORKER STATUS.