

Railroad Retirement Board

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Subpart A—General

§218.1 Introduction.

This part tells when a person's entitlement to a monthly railroad retirement annuity begins and ends. Ordinarily, an annuity begins on the earliest date permitted under the Railroad Retirement Act (Act). This part also tells when and how a person may select a later beginning date. Included is an explanation of how work and certain types of special payments affect the beginning date of an employee or spouse annuity.

§218.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Applicant means a person who signs an application for an annuity for himself, herself or for some other person.

Application means a form described in part 217 of this chapter.

Award means to process a form to make a payment.

Claimant means the person for whom an annuity application is filed.

Filing date means the date on which an application or written statement is filed with the Board.

Tier I benefit means the benefit calculated using the Social Security formulas and is based upon earnings, both in and outside the railroad industry.

Tier II benefit means the benefit calculated under a formula found in the Act and is based only upon railroad earnings.

§218.3 When an employee disappears.

(a) *General.* If an employee who is entitled to an annuity disappears, the employee annuity ends on the last day of the month before the month of the disappearance.

(b) *Employee has a current connection.*
(1) The Board may pay survivor benefits from the month of the employee's disappearance if both of the following conditions are met at the time of the disappearance:

(i) The employee has a current connection with the railroad industry as defined in part 216 of this chapter, and

(ii) The employee's spouse is entitled, or would have been entitled if he or she had filed an application, to a spouse annuity in the month that the employee disappeared.

(2) If the employee is later found to have been alive during any month for which a survivor annuity was paid, the amount of any incorrect payment must be recovered under the rules of part 255, Erroneous Payments, of this chapter. The incorrect payment is the amount of any survivor benefits which were paid minus any spouse benefits which were paid minus any spouse benefits that would have been paid.

(c) *Employee has no current connection.* If the employee does not have a current connection and the employee's spouse is entitled to an annuity in the month of the employee's disappearance, the spouse annuity will continue to be paid until one of the following events occurs:

(1) The employee's death is established.

(2) The spouse annuity ends for another reason.