

Railroad Retirement Board

§ 222.2

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Subpart A—General

§ 222.1 Introduction.

This part sets forth and describes the family relationships that may make a claimant eligible for an annuity or lump-sum payment under the Railroad Retirement Act and furnishes the basic rules for determining when those relationships exist. Such relationships may result from a current or terminated marriage or through birth, death or adoption. Other relevant relationships are having a child in care, dependency or lack of it, contributing to support, living in the same household, and being

under court order to contribute to support.

§ 222.2 Definitions.

As used in this part—

Annuity means a payment under the Railroad Retirement Act due to an entitlement claimant for a calendar month and made to him or her on the first day of the following month.

Apply means to sign a form or statement that the Railroad Retirement Board accepts as an application for an annuity or lump-sum payment under the rules set out in part 217 of this chapter.

Child has differing definitions for annuity and lump-sum payment purposes. See § 222.31.

Claimant means a person who files an application for an annuity or lump-sum payment or for whom an application is filed.

Eligible means that a person would meet all the requirements for payment of an annuity or lump-sum payment as of a given date but has not yet applied therefor.

Employee means an employee as defined in part 203 of this chapter.

Final divorce means a divorce that completely dissolves a marriage and restores the parties to the status of single persons; it is also referred to as an absolute divorce.

Finally divorced person means a person whose marriage has been terminated or dissolved by a final divorce.

Legal impediment means that there was a defect in the procedures followed in a marriage ceremony or that a previous marriage of the employee or spouse had not ended at the time of the ceremony.

Lump-sum payment means any of the following payments under the Railroad Retirement Act: lump-sum death payment, residual lump-sum, annuities due but unpaid at death, or lump-sum refund payment (see part 234 of this chapter).

Marriage means the social and legal relationship of husband and wife for family relationship purposes, as well as the act by which the married state is effected.

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Permanent home means the employee's true and fixed home (legal domicile); it is the place to which the employee intends to return whenever he or she is absent therefrom.

Relationship means a family connection by blood, marriage, or adoption between the employee and another person who is a claimant.

Spouse means the husband or wife of the employee.

State law means the law of the State in which the employee has his or her permanent home or, in the case of a deceased employee, the law of the State in which the employee had his or her permanent home at the time of his or her death. If the employee's permanent home is not in one of the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, or American Samoa, the laws of the District of Columbia are applied.

§ 222.3 Other regulations related to this part.

This part is related to a number of other parts of this chapter:

Part 216 describes when a person is eligible for an annuity under the Railroad Retirement Act.

Part 217 describes how to apply for an annuity or for lump-sum payments.

Part 218 sets forth the beginning and ending dates of annuities.

Part 219 sets out what evidence is necessary to prove eligibility and the relationships described in this part.

Part 220 describes when a person is eligible for a disability annuity under the Railroad Retirement Act or a period of disability under the Social Security Act.

Part 225 explains how primary insurance amounts (PIA's) are computed.

Part 226 outlines the computation of employee and spouse annuities.

Part 228 describes how survivor annuities are computed.

Part 229 describes when and how an employee and spouse annuity may be increased under the social security overall minimum provision.

Part 234 describes lump-sum payments under the Railroad Retirement Act.

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§ 222.4 Homicide of employee.

No person convicted of the felonious and intentional homicide of an employee can be entitled to an annuity or lump-sum payment based on the employee's earnings record (service and compensation). Further, the convicted person is considered not to exist in deciding the rights of other persons to annuity or lump-sum payments. A minor may be denied a survivor annuity or lump-sum payment on the earnings record of a parent if the minor was convicted of intentionally causing the parent's death by an act which would be considered a felony if committed by an adult.

Subpart B—Relationship as Wife, Husband, or Widow(er)

§ 222.10 When determinations of relationship as wife, husband, widow or widower of employee are made.

(a) The claimant's relationship as the wife or husband of an employee is determined when the claimant applies for an annuity, or when there is a claim which would include a husband or wife in the computation of the social security overall minimum provision, or when a claim is filed for a lump-sum payment. If a deemed marriage (see § 222.14) is to be determined, the husband, wife, or widow(er) must also be found to be or to have been living in the same household as the employee (see § 222.16).

(b) The claimant's relationship as the widow(er) of an employee is determined as of the date on which the employee died. If the claimant applied for a lump-sum payment as the widow(er) of the employee, one of the following determinations is made:

(1) Whether the widow(er) was living in the same household as the employee, as defined in § 222.16 of this part, at the time of the employee's death, if the claimant is applying for the 1974 Act lump-sum death payment.

(2) Whether the widow(er) was living with the employee, as defined in § 222.15 of this part, at the time of the employee's death, if the claimant is applying for the 1937 Act lump-sum death payment, annuities due but unpaid at death, the residual lump-sum payment, or a lump-sum refund payment.