

Railroad Retirement Board

Pt. 222

Security Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board will pay benefits to a railroad employee, and his or her eligible family members, both before and after the employee's death. The agency that has jurisdiction over the payment of benefits also has jurisdiction of the applicant's medicare coverage (see part 270 of this chapter). The Board is responsible for making this decision.

§221.2 Railroad Retirement Board jurisdiction.

(a) *Life cases.* The Board has jurisdiction to pay monthly benefits to each living employee who has completed at least ten years (120 months) of creditable service under the Railroad Retirement Act, and to his or her eligible spouse. Creditable service is described in part 220 of this chapter.

(b) *Death cases.* The Board has jurisdiction to pay monthly benefits or lump-sum death benefits to eligible survivors of a deceased employee, when the deceased employee has at least ten years (120 months) of service that is creditable under the Railroad Retirement Act and a current connection as described in part 216 of this chapter. Lump-sum death benefits are described in part 234 of this chapter. The Board also has jurisdiction to pay any residual benefits that may become payable at the death of an employee. Residual benefits are described in part 234 of this chapter. The Board retains jurisdiction to pay any residual that may be payable even after jurisdiction has been transferred to the Social Security Administration as described in §221.3.

§221.3 Social Security Administration jurisdiction.

The Board transfers jurisdiction (railroad service and compensation credits earned by the employee which the Social Security Administration considers in determining benefits payable) to the Social Security Administration when—

(a) *Life and death cases.* A living or deceased employee has less than 120 months of service that is creditable under the Railroad Retirement Act; or

(b) *Death cases.* A deceased employee has at least 120 months of service that is creditable under the Railroad Retirement

Act (see part 220 of this chapter) but does not have a current connection with the railroad industry as described in part 216 of this chapter.

§221.4 When a jurisdiction decision may be reversed.

The Board may reverse a jurisdiction decision whenever evidence is received by the Board indicating that the original decision was incorrect.

PART 222—FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Subpart A—General

Sec.

222.1 Introduction.

222.2 Definitions.

222.3 Other regulations related to this part.

222.4 Homicide of employee.

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.

222.11 Determination of marriage relationship.

222.12 Ceremonial marriage relationship.

222.13 Common-law marriage relationship.

222.14 Deemed marriage relationship.

222.15 When spouse is living with employee.

222.16 When spouse is living in the same household with employee.

222.17 “Child in care” when child of the employee is living with the claimant.

222.18 “Child in care” when child of the employee is not living with the claimant.

Subpart C—Relationship as Divorced Spouse, Surviving Divorced Spouse, or Remarried Widow(er)

222.20 When determination of relationship as divorced spouse, surviving divorced spouse, or remarried widow(er) is made.

222.21 When marriage is terminated by final divorce.

222.22 Relationship as divorced spouse.

222.23 Relationship as surviving divorced spouse.

222.24 Relationship as remarried widow(er).

Subpart D—Relationship as Child

222.30 When determinations of relationship as child are made.

222.31 Relationship as child for annuity and lump-sum payment purposes.

222.32 Relationship as a natural child.

222.33 Relationship resulting from legal adoption.

§ 222.1

- 222.34 Relationship resulting from equitable adoption.
- 222.35 Relationship as stepchild.
- 222.36 Relationship as grandchild or stepgrandchild.

Subpart E—Relationship as Parent, Grandchild, Brother or Sister

- 222.40 When determinations of relationship are made for parent, grandchild, brother or sister.
- 222.41 Determination of relationship and support for parent.
- 222.42 When employee is contributing to support.
- 222.43 How the one-half support determination is made.
- 222.44 Other relationship determinations for lump-sum payments.

Subpart F—Child Support and Dependency

- 222.50 When child dependency determinations are made.
- 222.51 When a natural child is dependent.
- 222.52 When a legally adopted child is dependent—general.
- 222.53 When a legally adopted child is dependent—child adopted after entitlement.
- 222.54 When a legally adopted child is dependent—grandchild or stepgrandchild adopted after entitlement.
- 222.55 When a stepchild is dependent.
- 222.56 When a grandchild or stepgrandchild is dependent.
- 222.57 When an equitably adopted child is dependent.
- 222.58 When a child is living with an employee.

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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

20 CFR Ch. II (4–1–06 Edition)

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.