

Railroad Retirement Board

§ 222.35

(ii) Any law that supersedes a law declared unconstitutional, that was considered constitutional on the employee's date of death, will apply.

[65 FR 20726, Apr. 18, 2000]

§ 222.33 Relationship resulting from legal adoption.

(a) *Adopted by employee.* A claimant will be considered to be the child of the employee for both annuity and lump-sum payment purposes if the employee legally adopted the claimant in accordance with applicable State law. Legal adoption differs from equitable adoption in that in the case of legal adoption formal adoption proceedings have been completed in accordance with applicable State law and such proceedings are not defective.

(b) *Adopted by widow or widower.* A claimant who is legally adopted by the widow or widower of the employee after the employee's death will be considered to be the child of the employee for annuity but not for lump-sum payment purposes if—

(1) Either the claimant is adopted by the widow or widower within two years after the date on which the employee died, or the employee commenced proceedings to legally adopt the claimant before the employee's death; and

(2) The claimant was living in the employee's household at the time of the employee's death; and

(3) The claimant was not receiving regular support contributions from any other person other than the employee or spouse at the time of the employee's death.

(c) The adoption laws of the state or foreign country where the adoption took place, not the state inheritance laws, will determine whether the claimant is the employee's adopted child.

[54 FR 42949, Oct. 19, 1989, as amended at 65 FR 20727, Apr. 18, 2000]

§ 222.34 Relationship resulting from equitable adoption.

In many States, where a legal adoption proceeding was defective under State law or where a contemplated legal adoption was not completed, a claimant may be considered to be an equitably adopted child. A claimant

will have the relationship of an equitably adopted child for annuity and lump-sum payment purposes if, in addition to meeting the other requirements of this part—

(a) The employee had agreed to adopt the claimant; and

(b) The natural parents or the person legally responsible for the care of the claimant agreed to the adoption; and

(c) The employee and the claimant lived together as parent and child; and

(d) The agreement to adopt is recognized under applicable State law such that, if the employee were to die without leaving a will, the claimant could inherit a share of the employee's personal estate as the child of the employee.

§ 222.35 Relationship as stepchild.

A claimant will be considered to have the relationship of stepchild of an employee, and will be considered a child for annuity but not for lump-sum benefit purposes if—

(a) The claimant's natural or adoptive parent married the employee after the claimant's birth; and

(b) The marriage between the employee and the claimant's parent is a valid marriage under applicable State law (see §§ 222.12 and 222.13), or would be valid except for a legal impediment; and

(c) The employee and the claimant's parent were married at least one year before the date—

(1) On which the spouse applies for an annuity based on having the employee's child in care; or

(2) On which the employee's annuity can be increased under the social security overall minimum provision; or

(d) The employee and the claimant's parent were married at least nine months before the date on which the employee died if the claimant is applying for a child's annuity; or if the employee and the claimant's parent were married less than nine months, the employee was reasonably expected to live for nine months, and—

(1) The employee's death was accidental; or

(2) The employee died in the line of duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States; or

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(3) The widow(er) was previously married to the employee for at least nine months.

§ 222.36 Relationship as grandchild or stepgrandchild.

A claimant will have the relationship of grandchild or stepgrandchild of an employee, or the grandchild or stepgrandchild of an employee's spouse, and be considered a child for annuity purposes if the requirements in both paragraph (a) and either paragraph (b) or (c) of this section are met.

(a) The claimant is the natural child, adopted child, or stepchild of a child of an employee, or of a child of the employee's spouse as defined in this subpart;

(b) The claimant's natural or adoptive parents are deceased or are disabled, as defined in section 223(d) of the Social Security Act, in the month in which—

(1) The employee, who is entitled to an age and service or disability annuity, under the Railroad Retirement Act, would also be entitled to an age benefit under section 202(a) of the Social Security Act or a disability benefit under section 223 of the Social Security Act, if his or her railroad compensation were considered wages under that Act; or

(2) The employee dies; or

(3) The employee's period of disability begins, if the employee has a period of disability which continues until he or she could be entitled to a social security benefit as described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section or until he or she dies.

(c) The claimant was legally adopted in the United States by the employee's widow(er) after the employee's death, and the claimant's natural or adoptive parent or stepparent was not living in the employee's household and making regular contributions to the claimant's support at the time the employee died.

NOTE: A grandchild or stepgrandchild does not have the relationship of "child" for lump-sum payment purposes (see § 222.44).

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

§ 222.40 When determinations of relationship are made for parent, grandchild, brother or sister.

(a) *Parent.* The claimant's relationship as a parent of the employee is determined when the claimant applies for an annuity or for lump-sum payments.

(b) *Grandchild.* The claimant's relationship as a grandchild, rather than as a child, of the employee is determined when the claimant applies for lump-sum payments.

(c) *Brother or sister.* The claimant's relationship as a brother or sister of the employee is determined when the claimant applies for lump-sum payments.

§ 222.41 Determination of relationship and support for parent.

(a) *Annuity claimant.* For purposes of applying for an annuity, a claimant is considered the employee's parent when the claimant—

(1) Is the natural mother or father of the employee, and is considered the employee's parent under the law of the State in which the employee had a permanent home when the employee died; or

(2) Is a person who legally adopted the employee before the employee became 16 years old; or

(3) Is a stepparent who married the employee's natural or adoptive parent before the employee became 16 years old (the marriage must be valid under the law of the State in which the employee had a permanent home when the employee died); and

(4) Was receiving at least one-half support from the employee (see §§ 222.42 and 222.43 of this part) either when the employee died or at the beginning of the period of disability, if the employee had a period of disability.

(b) *Lump-sum payment claimant.* For purposes of applying for lump-sum payments, a claimant is considered the employee's parent when he or she—

(1) Is the natural mother or father of the employee, and is considered the employee's parent under applicable State law; or