

Railroad Retirement Board

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or fiduciary of the annuitant, the account may be established to indicate this relationship. If the payee is not the legally appointed guardian or fiduciary, the accounts may be established as follows:

(1) For U.S. Savings Bonds—

(Name of annuitant)

(Social Security Number), for whom

(Name of payee)

is representative payee for Railroad Retirement benefits;

(2) For interest or dividend paying accounts—

(Name of annuitant) by

(Name of payee), representative payee.

(c) *Interest and dividend payments.* The interest and dividends which result from an investment are the property of the annuitant and may not be considered to be the property of the representative payee.

(d) *Prohibition against commingling.* The representative payee shall not commingle his or her personal funds with the representative payments. A representative payee may consolidate and maintain an annuitant's funds in an account with other annuitants if he or she maintains a separate, accurate and complete accounting of each annuitant's funds under his or her control.

§ 266.12 Effect of matters or actions submitted or taken by legal guardian, etc.

All matters and actions in connection with an annuity submitted or taken by the guardian or other person legally vested with the care of the person or estate of an incompetent or a minor shall be considered by the Board in the same manner and with the same effect as though such matters or actions had been submitted or taken by the ward, if the ward had capacity to act in his or her own behalf; *Provided, however,* That the Board may, if it deems it necessary, require the guardian or other person legally vested with the care of the person or estate of an incompetent or a minor to submit a certified copy of an order from the court of appointment authorizing some

particular action which the guardian or other person legally vested with the care of the person or estate desires to take in connection with the application.

§ 266.13 When a new representative payee will be selected.

When the Board learns that the interests of the annuitant are not served by continuing payment to the present representative payee or that the present representative payee is no longer able to carry out the payee responsibilities, the Board will undertake to find a new representative payee. The Board will select a new representative payee if the Board finds a preferred payee or if the present payee—

- (a) Has not used the benefit payments on the annuitant's behalf in accordance with the guidelines in this part;
- (b) Has not carried out the other responsibilities described in this part;
- (c) Dies;
- (d) No longer wishes to be representative payee;
- (e) Is unable to manage the benefit payments; or
- (f) Fails to cooperate, within a reasonable time, in providing evidence, accounting, or other information which the Board requests.

§ 266.14 When representative payment will be stopped.

If an annuitant receiving representative payment shows the Board that he or she is mentally and physically able to manage or direct the management of benefit payments, the Board will make direct payment to the annuitant. Information which the annuitant may give to the Board to support his or her request for direct payment include the following:

- (a) A physician's statement regarding the annuitant's condition, or a statement by a medical officer of the institution where the annuitant is or was confined, showing that the annuitant is able to manage or direct the management of his or her funds;
- (b) A certified copy of a court order restoring the annuitant's rights in a case where an annuitant was adjudged legally incompetent; or

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(c) Other evidence which establishes the annuitant's ability to manage or direct the management of benefits.

§ 266.15 Transfer of accumulated benefit payments.

A representative payee who has conserved or invested funds from railroad retirement payments made to him or her on behalf of an annuitant shall, upon direction of the Board, transfer any such funds (including interest or dividends earned from investment of such funds) to a successor representative payee appointed by the Board, or, at the option of the Board, shall transfer such funds, including interest, to the Board for payment to a successor payee or to the annuitant.

PART 295—PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO COURT DECREE OR COURT-APPROVED PROPERTY SETTLEMENT

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§ 295.1 Introduction.

(a) *Purpose.* This part implements section 419 of Pub. L. 98-76 (97 Stat. 438), which amended section 14 of the Railroad Retirement Act to provide that, with respect to annuity amounts payable for months beginning with September 1983, the Board must comply with a court decree of divorce, annulment or legal separation, or with the terms of any court-approved property settlement incident to any such decree, which characterizes specified benefits as property subject to distribution. Garnishment of benefits for alimony or child support is dealt with in part 350 of this chapter.

(b) *Benefits subject to this part.* Only the following benefits or portions of benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act are subject to this part:

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(1) Employee annuity net tier II benefit component as provided under section 3(b) of the Railroad Retirement Act;

(2) Employee annuity vested dual benefit component as provided under section 3(h) of the Act;

(3) Employee annuity net proportionate share of the annuity increases as provided under section 3(f) of the Act; and

(4) Supplemental annuities as provided under section 2(b) of the Act.

§ 295.2 Definitions.

As used in this part—

Act means the Railroad Retirement Act.

Court means any court of competent jurisdiction of any state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; any court of the United States (as defined in section 451 of title 28 of the United States Code) having competent jurisdiction; any Indian court as defined by section 1301 of title 25 of the United States Code; or any court of competent jurisdiction of a foreign country with which the United States has an agreement requiring the United States to honor any court order of such country.

Court decree means a final decree of divorce, dissolution, annulment, or legal separation issued by a court (including a final decree or order modifying the terms of a previously issued decree of divorce, dissolution, annulment, or legal separation), which is issued in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction of that court and which provides for the division of property.

Division of property means any transfer of property or its value by an individual to his or her spouse or former spouse in compliance with any community property settlement, equitable distribution of property, or other distribution of property between spouses or former spouses, which is intended as a present and complete settlement of the property rights of the parties.

Employee means an individual who is or was formerly an employee as defined by part 203 of this chapter.