

leave will be included in the computation (involving a CSRS employee annuity or the CSRS component of a FERS employee annuity) as follows:

(i) If the amount of unused sick leave is specified, the court order awards a portion of the employee annuity equal to the monthly employee annuity at retirement times a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months of “creditable service” as of the date specified plus the number of months of unused sick leave specified (which sum is rounded to eliminate partial months) and whose denominator is the months of “creditable service” used in the retirement computation.

(ii) If the amount of unused sick leave is not specified, the court order awards a portion of the employee annuity equal to the monthly rate at the time of retirement times a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months of “creditable service” as of the date specified (no sick leave included) and whose denominator is the number of months of “creditable service” used in the retirement computation (sick leave included).

(d)(1) General language such as “benefits earned as an employee with the U.S. Postal Service * * *” provides only that CSRS retirement benefits are subject to division and does not limit the period of service included in the computation (i.e., service performed with other Government agencies will be included).

(2) To limit the computation of benefits to a particular period of employment, the court order must—

(i) Use language expressly limiting the period of service to be included in the computation (e.g., “only U.S. Postal Service” or “exclusive of any service other than U.S. Postal Service employment”); or

(ii) Specify the number of months to be included in the computation; or

(iii) Describe specifically the period of service to be included in the computation (e.g., “only service performed during the period Petitioner and Defendant were married” or “benefits based on service performed through the date of divorce”).

§ 838.624 Distinguishing between formulas and fixed amounts.

(a) A court order that contains both a formula or percentage instruction and a dollar amount is deemed to include the dollar amount only as the court’s estimate of the initial amount of payment. The formula or percentage instruction controls.

(b) A court order that awards a portion of the “present value” of an employee annuity and specifically states the amount of either the “present value” of the employee annuity or of the award is deemed to give the former spouse “a specific dollar amount” that is payable from a monthly employee annuity and will be paid as a lump-sum award in accordance with § 838.235.

§ 838.625 Types of annuity.

(a) Terms that are synonymous with net annuity are—

- (1) Disposable annuity; and
- (2) Retirement check.

(b) Terms that are synonymous with self-only annuity are—

- (1) Life rate annuity;
- (2) Unreduced annuity; and
- (3) Annuity without survivor benefit.

(c) All court orders that do not specify net annuity or self-only annuity apply to gross annuity.

MODEL PARAGRAPHS

APPENDIX A TO SUBPART F OF PART 838—RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR COURT ORDERS DIVIDING EMPLOYEE ANNUITIES

This appendix provides recommended language for use in court orders attempting to divide employee annuity. A court order directed at employee annuity should include five elements:

- Identification of the benefits;
- Instructions that OPM pay the former spouse;
- A method for computing the amount of the former spouse’s benefit;
- Identification of the type of annuity to which to apply a fraction, percentage or formula; and
- Instructions on what OPM should do if the employee leaves Federal service before retirement and applies for a refund of employee contributions.

The court order may also include instructions for disposition of the former spouse’s share if the former spouse dies before the employee. By using the model language,