

Office of Personnel Management

§ 880.103

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Subpart A—General

§ 880.101 Purpose and scope.

(a) The purpose of this part is to establish a uniform standard that OPM will use in its administration of benefits for CSRS, FERS, FEHBP and FEGLI in cases in which an annuitant becomes a missing annuitant.

(b) This part establishes the procedures that OPM will follow to—

(1) Determine—

- (i) Who is a missing annuitant,
- (ii) When a missing annuitant has died,

(iii) When benefits will be paid in missing annuitant cases, and

(iv) FEHBP coverage for family members of a missing annuitant; and

(2) Make adjustments to CSRS and FERS benefit payments, FEHBP coverage and premiums, and FEGLI benefit payments and premiums after a determination that a missing annuitant is dead.

(c) This part applies only to situations in which an individual who satisfies the statutory definition of an annuitant under section 8331(9) or section 8401(2) of title 5, United States Code, disappears and has not been determined to be dead by an authorized institution. This part does not apply to—

(1) An employee, regardless of whether the absence is covered by subchapter VII of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code; or

(2) A separated employee who either—

(i) Does not meet the age and service requirements for an annuity, or

(ii) Has not filed an application for annuity.

§ 880.102 Regulatory structure.

(a) This part contains the following subparts:

(1) Subpart A contains general information about this part and related subjects.

(2) Subpart B establishes the procedures that OPM will follow in missing annuitant cases.

(3) Subpart C establishes the methodologies that OPM will apply in determining continuations of coverage and amounts of payments in missing annuitant cases.

(b) Part 831 of this chapter contains information about benefits under CSRS.

(c) Part 838 of this chapter contains information about benefits available to former spouses under court orders.

(d) Parts 841 through 844 of this chapter contain information about benefits under FERS.

(e) Part 870 of this chapter contains information about benefits under FEGLI.

(f) Part 890 of this chapter contains information about benefits under FEHBP.

(g) Part 1200 of this title contains information about Merit Systems Protection Board review of OPM decisions affecting interests in CSRS or FERS benefits.

(h) Part 1600 of this title contains information about benefits under the Thrift Savings Plan.

§ 880.103 Definitions.

For purposes of this part—

Annuitant means an individual who has separated from the Federal service with, and has retained, title to a CSRS or FERS annuity, has satisfied the age and service requirements for commencement of that annuity, and has filed an application for that annuity;

Associate Director means OPM's Associate Director for Retirement and Insurance or his or her designee;

Authorized institution means a government organization or official legally charged with making determinations of death in the State or country of the missing annuitant's domicile, citizenship, or disappearance;

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CSRS means the Civil Service Retirement System established in subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code;

FEGLI means the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program established in chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code;

FEHBP means the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program established in chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code;

FERS means the basic benefit portion of the Federal Employees Retirement System established in subchapters I, II, IV, V, and VI of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code; *FERS* does not include benefits under the Thrift Savings Plan established under subchapters III and VII of chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code;

Missing annuitant means an individual who has acquired the status of missing annuitant under § 880.203(b).

Subpart B—Procedures

§ 880.201 Purpose and scope.

This subpart establishes the procedures that OPM will use to—

- (a) Determine that an individual is a missing annuitant;
- (b) Suspend payment of annuity to a missing annuitant;
- (c) Notify individuals affected by such a suspension of payments; and
- (d) Determine that a missing annuitant has died.

§ 880.202 Referral to Associate Director.

Any OPM office that receives information concerning the possibility that an annuitant might have disappeared will notify the Associate Director.

§ 880.203 Missing annuitant status and suspension of annuity.

(a) Upon receipt of information concerning the possibility that an annuitant has disappeared, the Associate Director will conduct such inquiry as he or she determines to be necessary to determine whether the annuitant is alive and whether the annuitant's whereabouts can be determined.

(b) If during an inquiry under paragraph (a) of this section, or upon subsequent receipt of additional informa-

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tion, the Associate Director finds substantial evidence (as defined in § 1201.56(c)(1) of this title) to believe that an annuitant is either not alive or that the annuitant's whereabouts cannot be determined, the annuitant acquires the status of missing annuitant. The Associate Director will then—

- (1) Suspend payments to the missing annuitant; and
- (2) Notify individuals who may be able to qualify for payments under § 880.302 that—
 - (i) OPM has suspended the annuity payments to the missing annuitant;
 - (ii) Payment may be made under § 880.302, including the amount available for payment, how that amount was determined, and the documentation required (if any) to qualify for such payments; and
 - (iii) In response to an inquiry from any person seeking CSRS, FERS, FEHBP, or FEGLI benefits, OPM will provide information about documentation necessary to establish a claim for such benefits.

§ 880.204 Restoration of annuity.

(a) If the missing annuitant's whereabouts are determined, and he or she is alive and—

- (1) Competent, OPM will resume payments to the annuitant and pay retroactive annuity for the period in missing status less any payment made to the family during that period; or
- (2) Incompetent, OPM will resume payments to a representative payee under section 8345(e) or section 8466(c) of title 5, United States Code, and pay retroactive annuity for the period in missing status less any payment made to the family during that period.

(b) If the missing annuitant's whereabouts cannot be determined, missing annuitant status continues until an authorized institution determines that the missing annuitant is dead. (See § 880.205.)

§ 880.205 Determinations of death.

OPM does not make findings of presumed death. A claimant for CSRS, FERS, or FEGLI death benefits (other than payments under § 880.302) or an individual seeking an adjustment of accounts under § 880.207 must submit a