

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF LOUISIANA (MERS)

SURVIVOR BENEFITS APPLICATION CHECKLIST

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR SURVIVOR BENEFITS APPLICATION. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WITHOUT THE PROPER PAPERWORK WILL DELAY PROCESSING.

Application for Survivor Benefits

Salary Evaluation Form*

Authorization for Direct Deposit Form*

Certified Copy of Member's Death Certificate*

Copy of Spouse's Birth Certificate and Social Security Card (If applicable)

Copy of Minor Child(ren)'s Birth Certificate(s) and Social Security Card(s) (If applicable)

Copy of Marriage Certificate

Copy of Member's Certificate of Elected Service (Required for Elected Officials Only)

Copy of legal document designating guardianship and copy of IRS document designating tax number for guardianship (If applicable)

Survivor Insurance Premium Deduction Authorization (If required by employer)

Have final earnings and contributions been reported? Yes No (circle one)

*REQUIRED

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM of LOUISIANA (MERS)

7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Phone: (800) 820-1137 or (225) 925-4810 – Fax: (225) 925-4816

Application for Survivor Benefits

Please type or print in ink all entries except signatures

The applicant must complete Sections 1, 2, and 3 and forward to the deceased member's employer.

The employer must complete Section 4 and forward directly to the Municipal Employees' Retirement System.

Section 1 - Deceased Member Information

Member's Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Member's Social Security Number
Member's Date of Birth			Member's Date of Death (attach certified copy of death certificate)	

Section 2 - Applicant/Survivor Information

Applicant's Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix(Jr., III, etc.)	Applicant's Social Security Number (attach copy of card)
Applicant's Mailing Address			Applicant's Phone Number & Email Address	
Applicant's Address (City, State, and Zip Code)			Applicant's Date of Birth	

In accordance with the provisions of Louisiana retirement law R.S. 11:1732, R.S. 11:1720, R.S. 11:1729, and R.S. 11:1785 (Plan A) or R.S. 11:1805 (Plan B), pertaining to survivor benefits, I hereby make application for survivor benefits as a (check all that apply):

Surviving spouse with no minor child(ren) (under age 18). **PLAN A OR PLAN B**

(Attach: Copy of marriage certificate, Birth Certificate, and Social Security card)

If above selected choose one of the following:

Immediate Survivor Benefits Deferred Survivor Benefits Automatic Option 2 (member was eligible for retirement)
(at age 60 and older)

Surviving spouse with minor child(ren) (under age 18). **PLAN A ONLY**

(Attach: Copy of marriage certificate, Birth Certificate, and Social Security card for spouse/child(ren))

Surviving minor child(ren) (under age 18). **PLAN A ONLY**




(Attach: Birth Certificate and Social Security card for child(ren)).

Surviving spouse with mentally or physically handicapped child(ren). **PLAN A ONLY**


(Attach: Copy of marriage certificate, Birth Certificate, and Social Security card for spouse/child(ren))

Court-appointed guardian of an minor child(ren) (under age 18). **PLAN A ONLY**

(Attach: Copy of legal document designating guardianship; Copy of IRS document designating tax number for guardianship (if applicable); Birth Certificate, and Social Security card for child(ren))

Signature of Applicant (Do not print or type) 	Date Signed (MM/DD/YYYY)
Signature of Witness (Do not print or type) 	Signature of Witness (Do not print or type) 
Address (Street/P. O. Box)	Address (Street/P. O. Box)
City, State, and Zip Code	City, State, and Zip Code

Application for Survivor Benefits - Cont'd

Deceased Member's Name	Social Security Number	
Applicant's Name	Social Security Number	
Section 3 - Eligible Child(ren) Information		
Complete the following information for all eligible children for which application of benefits is being made. If additional space is needed, you may write the information on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this application.		
Is additional space needed? Yes No		
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Child's Name: Last, First, MI, Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)	Child's Social Security Number (Attach copy of card)	Child's Date of Birth
Section 4 - Employer Certification		
This section must be completed and signed by Clerk or Designated Authority.		
I hereby certify the following information pertaining to the member named on this Application for Survivor Benefits and further certify that the member was employed by this municipality on the date of death.		
Signature of Clerk or Designated Authority (Do not print or type) 	Title	
Municipality	Date Signed (MM/DD/YYYY)	



AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT

BENEFIT RECIPIENT'S INFORMATION

First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Last 4 Digits of SSN:		Phone Number:
Email Address:		

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Name of Financial Institution:		
Type of Account: <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> Savings		
Must attached VOIDED check or Direct Deposit Authorizatoin Form from the Financial Institution		
Account Number:		Routing Number: (Must Be 9 Digits)
Address of Financial Institution:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
If Joint Account, Name of Joint Signer:		

I hereby authorize Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) to deposit my net benefit payment to my account at the financial institution designated above and, if necessary, to initiate withdrawals to correct erroneous deposit entries to my account listed above. I understand that it is my responsibility to notify MERS should any changes occur to the above account specified. This authorization remains in effect until another signed Authorization for Direct Deposit is completed and received by MERS terminating or changing payment instructions. By signing below, I certify the following: 1) that the entire payment amount of my direct deposit is not ultimately deposited into a financial institution outside of the U.S.; 2) that I am entitled to the payment identified herein; and 3) that I understand the provisions and obligations contained herein.

--

Signature of Benefit Recipient

--

Date of Signature

7937 OFFICE PARK BOULEVARD • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809
TELEPHONE 225-925-4810 • 800-820-1137
FACSIMILE 225-925-4816 • WWW.MERSLA.COM

**Withholding Certificate
for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments**

Give Form W-4P to the payer of your pension or annuity payments.

OMB No. 1545-0074

2024**Step 1:
Enter
Personal
Information**

(a) First name and middle initial

Last name

(b) Social security number

Address

City or town, state, and ZIP code

(c) ☐ Single or Married filing separately☐ Married filing jointly or Qualifying surviving spouse☐ Head of household (Check only if you're unmarried and pay more than half the costs of keeping up a home for yourself and a qualifying individual.)**Complete Steps 2–4 ONLY if they apply to you; otherwise, skip to Step 5.** See pages 2 and 3 for more information on each step, when to use the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App, and how to elect to have no federal income tax withheld (if permitted).**Step 2:
Income
From a Job
and/or
Multiple
Pensions/
Annuities
(Including a
Spouse's
Job/
Pension/
Annuity)**Complete this step if you (1) have income from a job or more than one pension/annuity, or (2) are married filing jointly and your spouse receives income from a job or a pension/annuity. **See page 2 for examples on how to complete Step 2.**Do **only one** of the following.(a) Use the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App for most accurate withholding for this step (and Steps 3–4). If you or your spouse have self-employment income, use this option; **or**

(b) Complete the items below.

(i) If you (and/or your spouse) have one or more jobs, then enter the total taxable annual pay from all jobs, plus any income entered on Form W-4, Step 4(a), for the jobs less the deductions entered on Form W-4, Step 4(b), for the jobs. Otherwise, enter “-0-” . . . \$

(ii) If you (and/or your spouse) have any other pensions/annuities that pay less annually than this one, then enter the total annual taxable payments from all lower-paying pensions/annuities. Otherwise, enter “-0-” . . . \$

(iii) Add the amounts from items (i) and (ii) and enter the **total** here . . . \$**TIP:** To be accurate, submit a new Form W-4P for all other pensions/annuities if you haven't updated your withholding since 2021 or this is a new pension/annuity that pays less than the other(s). Submit a new Form W-4 for your job(s) if you have not updated your withholding since 2019.**Complete Steps 3–4(b)** on this form only if (b)(i) is blank **and** this pension/annuity pays the most annually. Otherwise, do not complete Steps 3–4(b) on this form.**Step 3:
Claim
Dependent
and Other
Credits**

If your total income will be \$200,000 or less (\$400,000 or less if married filing jointly):

Multiply the number of qualifying children under age 17 by \$2,000 \$

Multiply the number of other dependents by \$500 . . . \$

Add other credits, such as foreign tax credit and education tax credits \$

Add the amounts for qualifying children, other dependents, and other credits and enter the total here . . . \$

3

\$

**Step 4
(optional):
Other
Adjustments**(a) **Other income (not from jobs or pension/annuity payments).** If you want tax withheld on other income you expect this year that won't have withholding, enter the amount of other income here. This may include interest, taxable social security, and dividends . . .**4(a)**

\$

(b) **Deductions.** If you expect to claim deductions other than the basic standard deduction and want to reduce your withholding, use the Deductions Worksheet on page 3 and enter the result here . . .**4(b)**

\$

(c) **Extra withholding.** Enter any additional tax you want withheld from **each** payment . . .**4(c)**

\$

**Step 5:
Sign
Here**

Your signature (This form is not valid unless you sign it.)

Date

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code.

Future developments. For the latest information about any future developments related to Form W-4P, such as legislation enacted after it was published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW4P.

Purpose of form. Complete Form W-4P to have payers withhold the correct amount of federal income tax from your periodic pension, annuity (including commercial annuities), profit-sharing and stock bonus plan, or IRA payments. Federal income tax withholding applies to the taxable part of these payments. Periodic payments are made in installments at regular intervals (for example, annually, quarterly, or monthly) over a period of more than 1 year. Don't use Form W-4P for a nonperiodic payment (note that distributions from an IRA that are payable on demand are treated as nonperiodic payments) or an eligible rollover distribution (including a lump-sum pension payment). Instead, use Form W-4R, Withholding Certificate for Nonperiodic Payments and Eligible Rollover Distributions, for these payments/distributions. For more information on withholding, see Pub. 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax.

Choosing not to have income tax withheld. You can choose not to have federal income tax withheld from your payments by writing "No Withholding" on Form W-4P in the space below Step 4(c). Then, complete Steps 1a, 1b, and 5. Generally, if you are a U.S. citizen or a resident alien, you are not permitted to elect not to have federal income tax withheld on payments to be delivered outside the United States and its territories.

Caution: If you have too little tax withheld, you will generally owe tax when you file your tax return and may owe a penalty unless you make timely payments of estimated tax. If too much tax is withheld, you will generally be due a refund when you file your tax return. If your tax situation changes, or you chose not to have federal income tax withheld and you now want withholding, you should submit a new Form W-4P.

When to use the estimator. Consider using the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App if you:

1. Have social security, dividend, capital gain, or business income, or are subject to the Additional Medicare Tax or Net Investment Income Tax; or
2. Receive these payments or pension and annuity payments for only part of the year.

Self-employment. Generally, you will owe both income and self-employment taxes on any self-employment income you (or you and your spouse) receive. If you do not have a job and want to pay these taxes through withholding from your payments, use the estimator at www.irs.gov/W4App to figure the amount to have withheld.

Payments to nonresident aliens and foreign estates. Do not use Form W-4P. See Pub. 515, Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities, and Pub. 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens, for more information.

Tax relief for victims of terrorist attacks. If your disability payments for injuries incurred as a direct result of a terrorist attack are not taxable, write "No Withholding" in the space below Step 4(c). See Pub. 3920, Tax Relief for Victims of Terrorist Attacks, for more details.

Specific Instructions

Step 1(c). Check your anticipated filing status. This will determine the standard deduction and tax rates used to compute your withholding.

Step 2. Use this step if you have at least one of the following: income from a job, income from more than one pension/annuity, and/or a spouse (if married filing jointly) that receives income from a job/pension/annuity. The following examples will assist you in completing Step 2(b).

Example 1. Bob, a single filer, is completing Form W-4P for a pension that pays \$50,000 a year. Bob also has a job that pays \$25,000 a year. Bob has no other pensions or annuities. Bob will enter \$25,000 in Step 2(b)(i) and in Step 2(b)(iii).

If Bob also has \$1,000 of interest income, which he entered on Form W-4, Step 4(a), then he will instead enter \$26,000 in Step 2(b)(i) and in Step 2(b)(iii). He will make no entries in Step 4(a) on this Form W-4P.

Example 2. Carol, a single filer, is completing Form W-4P for a pension that pays \$50,000 a year. Carol does not have a job, but she also receives another pension for \$25,000 a year (which pays less annually than the \$50,000 pension). Carol will enter \$25,000 in Step 2(b)(ii) and in Step 2(b)(iii).

If Carol also has \$1,000 of interest income, then she will enter \$1,000 in Step 4(a) of this Form W-4P.

Example 3. Don, a single filer, is completing Form W-4P for a pension that pays \$50,000 a year. Don does not have a job, but he receives another pension for \$75,000 a year (which pays more annually than the \$50,000 pension). Don will not enter any amounts in Step 2.

If Don also has \$1,000 of interest income, he won't enter that amount on this Form W-4P because he entered the \$1,000 on the Form W-4P for the higher paying \$75,000 pension.

Example 4. Ann, a single filer, is completing Form W-4P for a pension that pays \$50,000 a year. Ann also has a job that pays \$25,000 a year and another pension that pays \$20,000 a year. Ann will enter \$25,000 in Step 2(b)(i), \$20,000 in Step 2(b)(ii), and \$45,000 in Step 2(b)(iii).

If Ann also has \$1,000 of interest income, which she entered on Form W-4, Step 4(a), she will instead enter \$26,000 in Step 2(b)(i), leave Step 2(b)(ii) unchanged, and enter \$46,000 in Step 2(b)(iii). She will make no entries in Step 4(a) of this Form W-4P.

If you are married filing jointly, the entries described above do not change if your spouse is the one who has the job or the other pension/annuity instead of you.



Multiple sources of pensions/annuities or jobs. If you (or if married filing jointly, you and/or your spouse) have a job(s), do NOT complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on Form W-4P. Instead, complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on the Form W-4 for the job. If you (or if married filing jointly, you and your spouse) do not have a job, complete Steps 3 through 4(b) on Form W-4P for **only** the pension/annuity that pays the most annually. Leave those steps blank for the other pensions/annuities.

Step 3. This step provides instructions for determining the amount of the child tax credit and the credit for other dependents that you may be able to claim when you file your tax return. To qualify for the child tax credit, the child must be under age 17 as of December 31, must be your dependent who generally lives with you for more than half the year, and must have the required social security number. You may be able to claim a credit for other dependents for whom a child tax credit can't be claimed, such as an older child or a qualifying relative. For additional eligibility requirements for these credits, see Pub. 501, Dependents, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information. You can also include **other tax credits** for which you are eligible in this step, such as the foreign tax credit and the education tax credits. Including these credits will increase your payments and reduce the amount of any refund you may receive when you file your tax return.

Step 4 (optional).

Step 4(a). Enter in this step the total of your other estimated income for the year, if any. You shouldn't include amounts from any job(s) or pension/annuity payments. If you complete Step 4(a), you likely won't have to make estimated tax payments for that income. If you prefer to pay estimated tax rather than

Specific Instructions (continued)

having tax on other income withheld from your pension, see Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals.

Step 4(b). Enter in this step the amount from the Deductions Worksheet, line 6, if you expect to claim deductions other than the basic standard deduction on your 2024 tax return and want to reduce your withholding to account for these deductions.

This includes itemized deductions, the additional standard deduction for those 65 and over, and other deductions such as for student loan interest and IRAs.

Step 4(c). Enter in this step any additional tax you want withheld from **each payment**. Entering an amount here will reduce your payments and will either increase your refund or reduce any amount of tax that you owe.

Note: If you don't give Form W-4P to your payer, you don't provide an SSN, or the IRS notifies the payer that you gave an incorrect SSN, then the payer will withhold tax from your payments as if your filing status is single with no adjustments in Steps 2 through 4. For payments that began before 2024, your current withholding election (or your default rate) remains in effect unless you submit a new Form W-4P.

Step 4(b)—Deductions Worksheet (Keep for your records.)



1

Enter an estimate of your 2024 itemized deductions (from Schedule A (Form 1040)). Such deductions may include qualifying home mortgage interest, charitable contributions, state and local taxes (up to \$10,000), and medical expenses in excess of 7.5% of your income

1 \$

2

Enter:

• \$29,200 if you're married filing jointly or a qualifying surviving spouse

• \$21,900 if you're head of household

• \$14,600 if you're single or married filing separately

2 \$

3

If line 1 is greater than line 2, subtract line 2 from line 1 and enter the result here. If line 2 is greater than line 1, enter "-0-"

3 \$

4

If line 3 equals zero, and you (or your spouse) are 65 or older, enter:

• \$1,950 if you're single or head of household.

• \$1,550 if you're married filing separately.

• \$1,550 if you're a qualifying surviving spouse or you're married filing jointly and one of you is under age 65.

• \$3,100 if you're married filing jointly and both of you are age 65 or older.

Otherwise, enter "-0-". See Pub. 505 for more information

4 \$

5

Enter an estimate of your student loan interest, deductible IRA contributions, and certain other adjustments (from Part II of Schedule 1 (Form 1040)). See Pub. 505 for more information

5 \$

6

Add lines 3 through 5. Enter the result here and in **Step 4(b)** on Form W-4P

6 \$

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice. We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to provide this information only if you want to (a) request federal income tax withholding from pension or annuity payments based on your filing status and adjustments; (b) request additional federal income tax withholding from your pension or annuity payments; (c) choose not to have federal income tax withheld, when permitted; or (d) change a previous Form W-4P. To do any of the aforementioned, you are required by sections 3405(e) and 6109 and their regulations to provide the information requested on this form. Failure to provide this information may result in inaccurate withholding on your payment(s). Failure to provide a properly completed form will result in your being treated as a single person with no other entries on the form; providing fraudulent information may subject you to penalties.

Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation, and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and territories for use in administering their tax laws. We may

also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103.

The average time and expenses required to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. For estimated averages, see the instructions for your income tax return.

If you have suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for your income tax return.



SURVIVOR INSURANCE PREMIUM DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION

R.S. 11: 1823(22)

SURVIVOR INFORMATION

First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:	Last 4 Digits of SSN:
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Phone Number:	Email Address:		
Name of Retiree from MERS:		Employer:	

I hereby authorize the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana to deduct from my monthly retirement check the amount shown below. The amount may be adjusted upon the employer's notification to MERS.

<div></div>	<div></div>
Survivor's Signature	Date of Signature

EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION

Monthly Premium to be Deducted \$ _____ Effective Date: _____

<div></div>	<div></div>
Signature of Authorized Representative	Date of Signature

FOR MERS OFFICE USE ONLY

Survivor's Effective Date:	Date of Survivor's First Payment:
Monthly Benefit:	Reviewed By:

RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

7937 OFFICE PARK BOULEVARD • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809
TELEPHONE 225-925-4810 • 800-820-1137
FACSIMILE 225-925-4816 • WWW.MERSLA.COM