

Your Guide To Designating A Pension Beneficiary



Naming a beneficiary helps to ensure your benefits are paid as you wish upon your death. It can also save your heirs time and money. For the purposes of the NEBS Pension Plan your beneficiaries are automatically your Spouse, Common-law Spouse and/or Eligible Dependent Children. If you die, and you do not have a Spouse, Common-law Spouse, and/or Eligible Dependent Children, your designated beneficiary may be entitled to a pension benefit. Your designated beneficiary can be one or more people or an organization, such as a charity. You may change your designated beneficiary at any time by completing a new beneficiary form.

Should I name my Spouse or Common-law Spouse as a pension beneficiary?

It is not necessary to name your Spouse or Common-law Spouse as a pension beneficiary. Under territorial law, he/she is automatically entitled to pre-retirement death benefits or a survivor pension after you retire.

Spouse of a member means the person who is legally married to the member.

A **Common-law Spouse** is a person who is living with the member in a conjugal relationship for at least one year. An "Employee Declaration of Common-law Spouse" form must be provided.

What happens if there is a relationship breakdown?

Your Former Spouse is entitled by law to a portion of the pension that you earned while a member of the NEBS Plan during the marriage. This means that your Former Spouse can only be removed as a beneficiary by way of legally filed court document. A Former Spouse may be assigned part of your benefit OR may waive their right to your benefit by way of a separation agreement, divorce settlement or court order.

A Common-law Spouse is not eligible for a pre-retirement death benefit, or a survivor pension, if he or she is living separate and apart from the member due to a breakdown in the relationship unless they are named as a designated beneficiary.

When will your designated beneficiary be used?

If you die before you retire, and you do not have a Spouse, Common-law Spouse, or Eligible Dependent Children, your designated beneficiary would be entitled to receive the commuted value of your pension benefit for all credited service.

If you die after you retire, and you do not have a Spouse, Common-law Spouse or Eligible Dependent Children, a designated beneficiary would receive the minimum 5 year guarantee, less any pension benefits paid to your date of death.

What if I do not designate a beneficiary?

Benefits will be payable to your estate.

Waiver of Survivor or Death Benefit

A Spouse or Common-law Spouse can waive his/her entitlement to a pre-retirement death benefit before or after the member's death. This waiver may be revoked with the agreement of the member and the spouse any time before the member's death. This allows pre-retirement death benefits to be assigned to a beneficiary other than a spouse, for example to children from a prior relationship.

Should I name my children as beneficiaries?

Eligible Dependent Children will automatically receive a pre-retirement death benefit or a survivor pension until they no longer qualify as dependent. When the last Eligible Dependent Child ceases to be dependent, the balance of the death benefit, if any, will be paid in equal amounts to the children who were Eligible Dependent Children at the date of death. Children who are not Eligible Dependent Children will not receive any benefits unless they are named as your designated beneficiary.

What if my beneficiary is under age 18?

If an Eligible Dependent Child is a minor, benefits will be paid to the Eligible Dependent Child's legal guardian. If you are appointing a minor who is not an Eligible Dependent Child as beneficiary, you should appoint a Trustee to receive and disburse any monies payable.

How to fill out the form

List each beneficiary on a separate line.

Sign in blue ink. If it is not signed, it is not legally valid.

Have a witness, other than the named beneficiary or trustee, sign the form. If the named beneficiary signs as the witness, it is not legally valid.

Date the form. If you change your beneficiary but do not date the form, we may not be able to determine which beneficiary is the current one.