

24 CAR § 10-804. Survivors — Surviving spouse.

(a) An eligible survivor of a qualifying member may receive survivor annuity benefits after the death of the qualifying member.

(b) Unless a qualifying member designates one (1) or more alternative residue beneficiaries by written form approved by the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, the survivor annuity benefits provided for in Arkansas Code § 24-7-710 shall be paid to the spouse of the qualifying member if the spouse:

(1) Survives the qualifying member; and

(2) Was married to the qualifying member for at least one (1) year immediately before the qualifying member's death.

(c)(1) A surviving spouse who is eligible to receive surviving spouse annuity benefits may file a waiver of his or her right to the surviving spouse annuity benefits with the system if, at the time of the qualifying member's death, the qualifying member does not have children who are eligible to receive dependent child survivor annuity benefits.

(2) If the surviving spouse files a waiver of his or her right to receive surviving spouse annuity benefits, then the surviving spouse may receive the qualifying member's accumulated contributions plus interest, if any, in a lump-sum distribution.

(d)(1) Pursuant to Arkansas Code § 24-7-710, surviving spouse annuity benefits are payable for the surviving spouse's lifetime, regardless of the remarriage of the surviving spouse.

(2) The surviving spouse may defer receipt of the surviving spouse annuity benefits, if applicable, under the deferred retirement provisions of Arkansas Code § 24-7-707.

(3) A surviving spouse shall submit the following documents to the system before a surviving spouse annuity benefit payment is issued to the surviving spouse:

(A) Proof of the qualifying member's death and date of death from the qualifying member's death certificate or another legally acceptable document;

(B) Proof of the surviving spouse's taxpayer identification number from a Social Security card or another authenticating document;

(C) Proof of the surviving spouse's date of birth from a birth certificate or another authenticating document; and

(D) Proof of the marriage between the qualifying member and surviving spouse from:

- (i) A marriage license or equivalent;
- (ii) A marriage license recording document; or
- (iii) Another legally acceptable proof of the existence of the marriage.

(E) Any additional documentation required by the system.

(4) A surviving spouse who is immediately eligible to receive a monthly survivor annuity benefit after the death of the qualifying member shall receive monthly survivor annuity benefits:

(A) Beginning the month after the death of the qualifying member if the survivor application is filed by the end of the sixth full calendar month following the date of the qualifying member's death; or

(B) Beginning the month in which the survivor application is filed with the system if at the time of the qualifying member's death the qualifying member:

- (i) Accumulated at least twenty-five (25) years of credited service and was eligible to receive a voluntary retirement or early retirement annuity; or
- (ii) Reached sixty (60) years of age and was eligible to receive a deferred retirement annuity.

(5) A surviving spouse who is not immediately eligible to receive a monthly survivor annuity benefit shall receive monthly survivor annuity benefits beginning the later of either the:

(A) Month following the date on which the qualifying member would have been eligible to receive retirement benefits had the qualifying member survived; or

(B) Date on which a survivor application is filed with the system.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY.

DEPARTMENT Legal
BOARD/COMMISSION Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT Jennifer Liwo
TELEPHONE NO. (501) 682-1517 **EMAIL** jenniferl@artrs.gov

To comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e), please complete the Financial Impact Statement and email it with the questionnaire, summary, markup and clean copy of the rule, and other documents. Please attach additional pages, if necessary.

TITLE OF THIS RULE 24 CAR § 10-804 - Survivors - Surviving Spouse

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule have a financial impact?
Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Is the rule based on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, or other evidence and information available concerning the need for, consequences of, and alternatives to the rule?
Yes ☒ No ☐
3. In consideration of the alternatives to this rule, was this rule determined by the agency to be the least costly rule considered? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, please explain:

(a) how the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional cost;

(b) the reason for adoption of the more costly rule;

(c) whether the reason for adoption of the more costly rule is based on the interests of public health, safety, or welfare, and if so, how; and

(d) whether the reason for adoption of the more costly rule is within the scope of the agency's statutory authority, and if so, how.

4. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a *federal* rule or regulation, please state the following:
(a) What is the cost to implement the federal rule or regulation?

Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
 Federal Funds _____
 Cash Funds _____
 Special Revenue _____
 Other (Identify) _____

Total \$0.00 _____

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
 Federal Funds _____
 Cash Funds _____
 Special Revenue _____
 Other (Identify) _____

Total \$0.00 _____

(b) What is the additional cost of the state rule?

Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
 Federal Funds _____
 Cash Funds _____
 Special Revenue _____
 Other (Identify) _____

Total \$0.00 _____

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____
 Federal Funds _____
 Cash Funds _____
 Special Revenue _____
 Other (Identify) _____

Total \$0.00 _____

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any private individual, private entity, or private business subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? Please identify those subject to the rule, and explain how they are affected.

Current Fiscal Year

\$ 0.00 _____

N/A

Next Fiscal Year

\$ 0.00 _____

6. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to a state, county, or municipal government to implement this rule? Is this the cost of the program or grant? Please explain how the government is affected.

Current Fiscal Year

\$ 0.00 _____

N/A

Next Fiscal Year

\$ 0.00 _____

7. With respect to the agency's answers to Questions #5 and #6 above, is there a new or increased cost or obligation of at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year to a private individual, private entity, private business, state government, county government, municipal government, or to two (2) or more of those entities combined?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, the agency is required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e)(4) to file written findings at the time of filing the financial impact statement. The written findings shall be filed simultaneously with the financial impact statement and shall include, without limitation, the following:

- (1) a statement of the rule's basis and purpose;
- (2) the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute;
- (3) a description of the factual evidence that:
 - (a) justifies the agency's need for the proposed rule; and
 - (b) describes how the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule's costs;
- (4) a list of less costly alternatives to the proposed rule and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (5) a list of alternatives to the proposed rule that were suggested as a result of public comment and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (6) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule and, if existing rules have created or contributed to the problem, an explanation of why amendment or repeal of the rule creating or contributing to the problem is not a sufficient response; and
- (7) an agency plan for review of the rule no less than every ten (10) years to determine whether, based upon the evidence, there remains a need for the rule including, without limitation, whether:
 - (a) the rule is achieving the statutory objectives;
 - (b) the benefits of the rule continue to justify its costs; and
 - (c) the rule can be amended or repealed to reduce costs while continuing to achieve the statutory objectives.