



SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

FOR POLICE AND FIRE MEMBERS

This document has been prepared for members of the Public Employees Retirement System of Nevada to provide general information.

It is based on retirement law effective from the 72nd session of the Nevada Legislature, 2003. This is not a legal document, nor is it intended to serve as a basis for legal interpretation. Official legal reference may be found in the Nevada Revised Statutes.

INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared for police and fire members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) to provide general information concerning the system.

If you work for a Nevada public employer in an approved police/fire position, you will be enrolled in PERS. Membership is not cancelled automatically upon termination of employment. Membership can only be cancelled upon refund, retirement or death of the member.

TYPES OF CONTRIBUTION PLANS

Your base pay, longevity pay, shift differential pay and call-back pay are subject to retirement contribution. Overtime, terminal leave, pay from secondary employment, and any other type of payment not specifically listed as subject to retirement contribution within Chapter 286 of the NRS is not subject to contribution.

Employer Pay Contribution Plan (EPC)

If you are an employee of a local government employer, you are contributing under EPC. You might also be contributing under EPC if you work for the State of Nevada whereby you voluntarily chose to participate under EPC. Under this plan, the employer pays the total PERS contribution on your behalf. These contributions are not deposited to your individual member account and are not available for refund upon termination of employment. The EPC contribution rate for police/fire members is 28.5%.

Employee/Employer Contribution Plan

Employees of the State of Nevada and many of the smaller employers have the option to contribute under this plan. You and your employer share equally in the contribution to PERS, currently 14.75% each. Your **after tax** contribution is refundable upon termination of employment, if you do not elect to receive a monthly retirement benefit. If you are unsure of which plan you are contributing under, contact your employer or PERS.

SERVICE

Police and fire members earn service credit based on years, months and days actually worked.

Purchase of Service

If you have five years of creditable service, you may purchase up to five years of service credit. You must pay the full actuarial cost associated with your age and average compensation at the time of purchase. The cost to purchase one year of service averages about one-third of your annual salary. Payment may be made in a lump sum or by installment agreement.

Purchase of service may also be accomplished using certain types of retirement savings accounts such as 401 (a), 401 (k) qualified pension trusts, 403 (b) and 457 retirement savings plans and IRAs.

Refund of Contributions

If you contribute under the employee/employer contribution plan, you may withdraw your employee contributions if you terminate all employment for which contribution is required or you are employed in a position ineligible for membership for at least 90 days.

A refund cancels all rights of membership including service credit earned under the EPC plan.

Repayment of Refunded Contributions

If you received a refund of employee contributions and later return to work and reestablish active membership for a period of at least six months, you may repay the refunded contributions and restore service credit. Repayment, including interest at the actuarially determined rate, may be made in a lump sum or by monthly installments.

BENEFITS

Service Retirement

Vesting

If you are a contributing member of PERS after June 30, 1989, you earn the right to receive a retirement allowance after five years of service.

Eligibility for Monthly Unreduced Retirement Benefit	
Years of Service	Age
5	65
10 (Police/Fire Service)	55
20 (Police/Fire Service)	50
25 (Police/Fire Service)	Any age
30	Any age

Benefit Calculation Factors

The amount of allowance you receive will be based on three factors:

- **Service Credit** – years, months and days on which contributions were paid.
- **Average Compensation** – average of highest 36 consecutive months of employment.
- **Selection of retirement option and age of member and beneficiary at the time of retirement.**

Benefit Formula

The formula used for calculating your retirement benefit is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Service Credit} \times 2.5\% * \times \text{Average Monthly} \\ \text{Compensation} &= \text{Unmodified Monthly Benefit} \\ \text{Example: } 20 \text{ years} \times 2.5\% &= 50\% \\ 50\% \times \$3,000 &= \$1,500 \end{aligned}$$

***For service credit earned after July 1, 2001, a 2.67% multiplier will be used.**

Retirement Options

Benefits are paid to you for life and, after your death, to the one person named as beneficiary on the retirement application. It is not mandatory to name a beneficiary. Prospective retirees may elect one of seven retirement plans.

Option 1 – The Unmodified Allowance Pays you the full monthly allowance you have earned for your lifetime. If you name your spouse as beneficiary at the time of retirement he or she will be eligible after your death for up to 50 percent of your allowance based on your service credit in the Police and Firemen's Retirement Fund. Your spouse must be at least age 50 before collecting a lifetime benefit. This benefit is available only if a member contributes under the Employer Pay Contribution plan (EPC). Otherwise, no beneficiary allowance is available under this option.

Option 2 – Provides an actuarially reduced allowance for your lifetime. After your death, the same allowance continues for the lifetime of your beneficiary.

Option 3 – Provides an actuarially reduced benefit for your lifetime. After your death, 50% of the allowance continues for the lifetime of your beneficiary.

Options 4 and 5 are calculated the same as 2 and 3 but are not payable to a beneficiary before age 60. In Options 6 and 7, a retiree may designate the beneficiary amount.

The reduction from the unmodified allowance is determined by an actuarial percentage based on the ages of the member and beneficiary at the time of retirement.

After retirement, the named beneficiary cannot be changed. If you choose an Option 2-7, you may under certain conditions choose to revert to the Unmodified Option. Additionally, if your beneficiary predeceases you, the law provides that your benefit will revert to the Unmodified Option.

Examples:

Benefit Calculation Formula
Unreduced Service Retirement Benefit
(With all service credited in the Police and Firemen's Retirement Fund)

Using the example in the benefit formula mentioned earlier, let us assume that you will retire at age 50 with 20 years of service credit and an average monthly compensation of \$3,000. Your beneficiary is age 48. The following sample calculations are based on your spouse as beneficiary; however, you may name someone other than your spouse for the Options 2-7. The additional options can be calculated upon request.

Average Compensation = \$3,000
Service = 20 police/fire years x 2.5%* = 50%

Benefits:

	Monthly Amount Retiree Will Receive	Monthly Amount Beneficiary Will Receive After Retiree's Death
Unmodified (Option1)	\$1,500.00	\$ 750.00 **
Option 2	\$1,362.00	\$1,362.00 ***
Option 3	\$1,428.00	\$ 714.00 ***

Options 2 and 3 are based on your age and your beneficiary's age, rounded to the nearest year, at the time of your retirement.

* For service credit earned after July 1, 2001, a 2.67% multiplier will be used.
** Spouse must reach age 50 before receiving a benefit.
*** The reduced amounts under Options 2 and 3 are based on your age and your beneficiary's age at the time of retirement.

Benefit Calculation Formula
Unreduced Service Retirement Benefit

*(Based on 10 years of police/fire service credit
plus 10 years of ordinary service)*

Average Compensation = \$3,000

Service = 10 years of ordinary service + 10 years of
police/fire service = 20 years x 2.5%* = 50%

This calculation is based on retiring at age 55 with a
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Benefits:

	Monthly Amount Retiree Will Receive	Monthly Amount Beneficiary Will Receive After Retiree's Death
Unmodified (Option 1)	\$1,500.00	\$ 375.00**
Option 2	\$1,309.50	\$1,309.50 ***
Option 3	\$1,398.00	\$ 699.00 ***

Options 2 and 3 are based on your age and your
beneficiary's age, rounded to the nearest year, at
the time of your retirement.

* **For service credit earned after July 1, 2001,
a 2.67 multiplier will be used.**

** The Unmodified benefit for the spouse is based on the
ratio of years of service credited under the Police and
Firemen's Retirement Fund to your total amount of
credited service. Spouse must reach age 50 before
receiving a benefit.

*** The reduced amounts under Options 2 and 3 are based
on your age and your beneficiary's age at the time of
retirement.

Early Retirement Reduction

In the event you earn the years of service necessary to receive a retirement benefit but have not reached the age required for an unreduced benefit, you may retire at any age with your benefit reduced by four percent for each full year you retire early.

An example of how this reduction would work is provided below for a 49 year-old retiree with 20 years of service, a \$3,000 per month average compensation, and a beneficiary who is age 45.

This calculation assumes the beneficiary is the spouse of the retiree.

Benefit Calculation Formula		
Reduced Service Retirement Benefit		
Average Compensation = \$3,000		
Police/Fire Service = 20 years x 2.5%* = 50%		
Unmodified Allowance = \$1,500		
Early Retirement Reduction = 4% (12 months) x \$1,500 = \$60		
Reduced Unmodified Allowance = \$1,440		
	Monthly Amount Retiree Will <u>Receive</u>	Monthly Amount Beneficiary Will Receive After <u>Retiree's Death</u>
Unmodified (Option 1)	\$1,440.00	\$ 720.00**
Option 2	\$1,271.20	\$1,271.20***
Option 3	\$1,370.88	\$ 685.44***
The reduced amounts under Options 2 and 3 are based on your age and your beneficiary's age, rounded to the nearest year, at t		
* For service credit earned after July 1, 2001 a 2.67% multiplier will be used.		
** Your spouse must reach age 50 before receiving this benefit.		
*** The reduced amounts under Options 2 and 3 are based on your age and your beneficiary's age at the time of retirement.		

Your PERS benefit and Social Security

Your PERS benefit will not be affected by a Social Security Benefit. However, a Social Security benefit may be affected because you receive a PERS pension. The Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) are the two Federal Government regulations that may reduce your Social Security benefit. We suggest you contact the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 or visit their website at www.ssa.gov for more information.

How to Apply

Between three and six months before your retirement, request an estimate of retirement allowance and an application for retirement. The request should include:

1. *Your anticipated retirement date*
2. *Your name and Social Security number*
3. *Your beneficiary's name, birth date and Social Security number*

It is also wise to consult a PERS counselor prior to your retirement.

Disability Retirement

If you have five or more years of service and become totally unable to perform your current or any comparable job because of an injury or mental or physical illness of a permanent nature, you are eligible to apply for disability retirement. **Your application must be filed with PERS prior to your termination of employment.**

How to Apply

The disability application has four parts:

1. *Member's statement of disability and retirement plan selection*
2. *Personnel officer's report*
3. *Supervisor's report*
4. *Physician's statement*

The completed application is submitted to the Retirement Board for consideration at its regular monthly meetings. Disability retirement benefits are calculated in the same manner as service retirement benefits described before, but without reduction for age. To apply for disability benefits, employees are urged to contact PERS or the retirement liaison officer where you work.

For special information regarding disability retirement, ask for a copy of the PERS Disability Retirement Document.

Survivor Benefits

Eligibility

If you were to die prior to retirement, your eligible survivors would be entitled to a survivor benefit if:

1. *You had two years of service in the two and one half years immediately preceding your death; or*
2. *You had more than 10 years of accredited service; or*
3. *Your death was caused by an occupational disease or an accident arising out of or in the course of your employment, regardless of service credit.*

Effective January 2004 all members of the plan can designate a Survivor Beneficiary and any additional payees to receive survivor benefits in the event of death prior to retirement. **The designation must be made on an approved PERS' beneficiary form.** Your named beneficiaries would receive a payment based on the percentages you designate for the lifetime of the person named 'Survivor Beneficiary' in the event you are single at the time of your death.

Who is Included

Your eligible survivors include:

1. *Your spouse*
2. *Your survivor beneficiary and additional payees*
3. *Your dependent children under age 18*
4. *Your dependent parents, provided there are no other eligible survivors at the time of your death*

Amount of Survivor Benefits

The following monthly benefits are payable to a surviving spouse, survivor beneficiaries and/or dependent children if your death occurs prior to retirement

<u>Service Credit</u>	<u>Spouse/ Survivor</u>	<u>Each Child*</u>
2+	\$450	\$400
10+	Option 3	\$400
(If member was under age for full eligibility)		
10+	Option 2	\$400
(If member was fully eligible to retire)		
15+	Option 2	\$400

* Until age 18 or to age 23 if a full time, unmarried student.

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(Other restrictions may apply)

PERS Counseling Services

In Carson City: Weekdays at the PERS building located at 693 W. Nye Lane, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If possible, please call ahead for an appointment.

In Las Vegas: Weekdays at our office at 5820 S. Eastern Ave, Suite 220, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Due to a high demand for counselors in this office, it is advisable to schedule an appointment.

In rural Nevada: Counselors are available during the spring and fall. Please watch for our notices and call our Carson City office for an appointment.

For further information, contact your agency's retirement liaison officer or PERS office.

Public Employees' Retirement System 693 West Nye Lane Carson City, NV 89703

For telephone inquiries, call:

- *from Las Vegas: (702) 486-3900*
- *from Carson City or Reno: (775) 687-4200*
- *from anywhere else in the USA: 1-866-473-7768*

Website: www.nvpers.org

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