



The Solon

August 1999

General Assembly Retirement System

QILDRO

The Illinois General Assembly established the **Qualified Illinois Domestic Relations Order (QILDRO)** effective July 1, 1999. The QILDRO allows for the division of a retirement benefit or a refund of contributions due to divorce. It does not establish a new benefit, nor does it create a new member or beneficiary.

Generally, the QILDRO orders the payment of a benefit to the spouse, a child or other dependent. The QILDRO does not apply to lump sum death benefits, survivor annuities, or disability benefits.

The QILDRO is usually issued at the time of divorce and sent to the member's retirement system. The QILDRO must state when it would go into effect and the specific dollar amount to be deducted from a refund or retirement benefit.

A QILDRO expires if the member takes a refund prior to retirement or dies. A QILDRO would also expire if the alternate payee dies, and the benefit would be returned to the member. The benefit may not be passed on to another person.

Any member who has questions about a QILDRO should discuss it with their attorney. If a QILDRO will be used in a divorce settlement, the member should contact the retirement system in which they participate.

1-on-1 Counseling Schedule

Last fiscal year our staff visited 18 sites and talked to over 141 active members, annuitants, and survivors about their GARS benefits.

Listed below are the dates and locations of the 1-on-1 counseling sessions for fiscal year 2000. Although no appointment is necessary, we like to know who will be attending each session. If you want to attend a 1-on-1 session, call us at 217-782-8500, or notify the Court Administrator at the meeting site.

August 10

Morgan Co. Courthouse
Jacksonville 9 - 10 p.m.

August 10

McDonough Co. Courthouse
Macomb 11:30 a.m. - 2p.m.

August 11

Adams Co. Courthouse
Quincy 9 - 11:30 a.m.

September 8

Lake Co. Courthouse
Waukegan 11:30 a.m. - 2p.m.

September 9

DuPage Co. Courthouse
Wheaton 9 - 11 a.m.

September 9

Kane Co. Courthouse
St. Charles Noon - 2 p.m.

September 21

LaSalle Co. Courthouse
Ottawa 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

September 22

Will Co. Courthouse
Joliet 9 - 11 a.m.

September 22

Kankakee Co. Courthouse
Kankakee 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

February 9

James R. Thompson Center
Suite 2-010, 100 W. Randolph
Chicago 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

February 10

James R. Thompson Center
Suite 2-010, 100 W. Randolph
Chicago 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

March 29

Knox Co. Courthouse
Galesburg 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

March 30

Peoria Co. Courthouse
Peoria 9 - 11:30 a.m.

March 30

McLean Co. Courthouse
Bloomington 1 - 3 p.m.

April 26

5th Municipal District Courthouse
Bridgeview 1 - 3 p.m.

April 27

2nd Municipal District Courthouse
Skokie 9 - 11 a.m.

May

State Capitol
Springfield Dates & Times TBA

GARS on the Web

Internet:
<http://www.state.il.us/srs>

E-Mail: ser@pop.state.il.us

Understanding Your Statement

Enclosed with this copy of The Solon is your annual benefit statement for the year ending June 30, 1999. It reflects a salary increase effective July 1, 1999. If you have questions about your statement, call us at 217/782-8500.

In this article, we highlight areas of the statement where members have the most questions.

If you do not agree with the service shown on your statement, contact us at 217-782-8500.

If you are establishing service credit, it will not be shown on your statement until it is paid in full.

Retirement benefits are estimated using your salary on July 1.

Reciprocal service is shown two different ways:

- Active is current service.
- Inactive is refunded service.

General Assembly Retirement System of Illinois

2101 South Veterans Parkway, P. O. Box 19255, Springfield, IL 62794-9255

Your Annual Benefit Statement has been prepared as of June 30, 1999 using the following information:

Social Security # 123-45-6789 Date of Birth 05/12/1946

00063A
MEMBER R. ANY
ANY STREET
ANY CITY, IL 62701

Member Information

You have 210 months of contributing membership service. This does not include service forfeited by taking a refund, or any service credit in a reciprocal retirement system listed below. You have 0.00 months of leadership service. Leadership service can enhance your retirement benefit (see "final salary" on the reverse side).

Your total contributions are \$143,036.42. Your fiscal year 1998 contributions (July 1-June 30) are \$13,557.80. Your monthly prescribed salary as of July 1, 1998 is \$11,072.25. Your final salary is used to compute your retirement benefit.

Retirement Benefits

Retirement benefits are based on service, final salary and age. Normal retirement is age 55 with eight years (96 months) of service. If you continue working to normal retirement age, your estimated monthly retirement benefit will be \$9,410.00 on 08/01/2001.

Your monthly benefit earned and accrued as of June 30, 1998 is \$8,010.00, payable on 08/01/2001.

If you wish to attend a pre retirement seminar, please contact our office at 217/782-8500.

Disability

If you become permanently disabled, your monthly benefit amount is \$8,010.00. This amount is payable for life, so long as you remain permanently disabled.

Reciprocal Service

Our records indicate you may have service in the following system(s):
ACTIVE-JUDGES RETIREMENT SYSTEM 100.00

Death Benefits

Death benefits are payable to your spouse, children or named beneficiaries, as applicable. Lump sum death benefits are payable to your named beneficiaries if there are no eligible survivor(s) at your date of death. If you wish to change your GARS beneficiaries, a change of beneficiary form is printed in the enclosed Solon. GARS BENEFITS ARE SEPARATE FROM YOUR GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE. Group life beneficiaries are not included in this statement.

If you die while actively employed, your eligible spouse will receive a monthly income of \$5,345.03* payable at age 50 or earlier if eligible children survive.

Additional amounts are payable for eligible children.

If you die with no qualified survivors, your named beneficiary or estate will receive your total contributions of \$143,036.42.

Your current beneficiaries are:

1 - BENEFICIARY ONE

2 - BENEFICIARY TWO

2 - BENEFICIARY THREE

* This amount is reduced by any Workers Compensation benefits received.

At a Glance as of June 30, 1999 Member Information

Total Months of Service	210
Membership Service	0.00
Leadership Service	0.00
Total Contributions	\$143,036.42
Estimated Retirement Benefit	\$9,410.00
Payable On	08/01/2001
Death	
Survivor Spouse Benefit	\$5,345.03

The survivor benefit payable to a spouse is 66 2/3, or 10% of your final salary, whichever is greater.

Keeping Your Beneficiaries Current

Your named beneficiaries are located in the Death Benefits section of your Benefit Statement. It is your responsibility to keep your designations up-to-date.

Your GARS beneficiaries are separate from your Group Life Insurance beneficiaries. The people listed on your Benefit Statement are designated to receive your GARS benefits only.

You may change your beneficiaries at any time by filling out a Nomination of Beneficiaries form on the next page. If you have questions about your nominated beneficiaries, call us at 217-782-8500.

Legislative Report

No legislation passed during the spring legislative session that affects GARS.

Planning For The Future

Do you ever take time out of your busy schedule to think about your life in retirement? You might wonder if you'll have enough money to live the same lifestyle; or wonder what you'll do with all of your newfound free time.

These are not easy questions to answer. To help you start finding the answers now during your working years, we urge you to enroll in the Education for Tomorrow's Choices (ETC) pre-retirement workshop.

This free, one-day workshop features a certified financial planner who will discuss money management and investment strategies, as well as expert speakers in other fields.

Although retirement may be years in the future, this information will help you begin planning for a lifetime of financial security. If you are interested in attending a workshop, call us at 217-782-8500. Spouses or other guests are always welcome.

Myths & Realities of Retirement

To help make your retirement years more satisfying and rewarding, the State Retirement Systems offers the "Myths and Realities of Retirement" workshop for retirees and their spouses, as well as GARS survivors receiving GARS benefits.

This free, one-day workshop gives you information about Group Insurance, Social Security, GARS benefits, financial planning, aging and leisure.

The schedule for this fiscal year is:

September 29	Champaign
April 5	Peoria
April 26	Chicago
June 14	Rockford

General Assembly Retirement System of Illinois

2101 South Veterans Parkway, P. O. Box 19255, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9255, 217/782-8500

MEMBER'S NOMINATION OF BENEFICIARY(IES) FOR DEATH BENEFITS

This form is to be used to nominate the person or persons to receive any death benefit payable by the General Assembly Retirement System of Illinois. ***This is a legal document which, after preparation, may not be altered in any way by any person.*** A member desiring to change beneficiaries at a later date must complete a new Nomination Beneficiary form. The form on file with the GARS which has the most recent date—located next to the member's signature—will take precedence.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this form using ink or typewriter. You may nominate as many as you wish, or

to your estate. If additional space is required, use additional sheets. Benefits will be paid on a ***survivor basis in the numerical order*** you indicate. Two or more persons with the same order number will receive equal shares. When this beneficiary nomination is accepted by the GARS, an acknowledgment will be mailed to you.

NOTE: *Persons nominated as beneficiaries without order numbers will be considered after those persons nominated with order numbers. Two or more persons nominated without order numbers will receive equal shares.*

EXAMPLE

Order Number	Name	Address	Relationship
1	<u>John A. Doe</u>	<u>123 West Main, Chicago, IL 60601</u>	<u>Father</u>
2	<u>Jane B. Doe</u>	<u>123 West Main, Chicago, IL 60601</u>	<u>Mother</u>
3	<u>David C. Doe</u>	<u>123 West Main, Chicago, IL 60601</u>	<u>Brother</u>
3	<u>Nancy D. Doe</u>	<u>44 South 2nd, Springfield, IL 62708</u>	<u>Sister</u>
3	<u>Mary E. Doe</u>	<u>123 West Main, Chicago, IL 60601</u>	<u>Sister</u>
4	<u>Frank F. Smith</u>	<u>9876 E. 99th St., Peoria, IL 61605</u>	<u>None</u>

In the event the member dies while in state service, the benefit will be paid as follows:

1. All the money will be paid to John A. Doe.
2. If John A. Doe is not living when the member dies, all the money will be paid to Jane B. Doe.
3. If John A. and Jane B., Doe are not living when the member dies, the money will be divided equally among David C., Nancy D., and Mary E. Doe. (If only two of these three persons are living when the member dies, each will receive one-half of the money. If only one of these three persons is living when the member dies, he/she will receive all of the money.)
4. If John A., Jane B., David C., Nancy D., and Mary E. Doe are not living when the member dies, all the money will be paid to Frank F. Smith.
5. If none of the nominated beneficiaries are living when the member dies, all of the money will be paid to the member's estate.

Nominated Beneficiaries

Order Number	Name	Address	Relationship

This form must be witnessed by two people who are not named as beneficiaries.

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

Member's Social Security Number _____ Witness _____

Member's Address _____ Address _____

_____ Witness _____

Address _____