

# BEFORE WE BEGIN



- If you'd like to download the slideshow, please visit the website:  
[www.trsil.org/deathbenefits](http://www.trsil.org/deathbenefits)
- Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation as time permits



This presentation is intended to provide basic information summarizing TRS benefits and services and your responsibilities as a TRS member. TRS must comply with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. If there is any conflict between the information contained in this presentation and the applicable law, rule, or regulation, the law, rule, or regulation takes precedence. No TRS employee has authority to bind the System to any statement or action contrary to law. Laws are subject to change. TRS must correct errors upon discovery even if payment has begun. Any information is for the specific purpose provided and does not represent tax, legal, or other professional advice. Seek personal professional advice as needed.

# Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois

## Connecting with Retirees: Death Benefits



# What will be covered. . .

- Death Benefits
  - Unrecovered Pension Contributions
  - Survivor Benefits
- Beneficiaries
- Claiming Death Benefits
- Questions

# Tier 1 or Tier 2?

1

## Tier 1

First contributed to TRS or reciprocal retirement system prior to January 1, 2011

2

## Tier 2

First contributed to TRS or reciprocal retirement system on or after January 1, 2011

JANUARY 2011						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

# Death Benefits



# Death Benefits



1%

Survivor Benefits



8%

Retirement

# Beneficiary Refund



8%

Retirement

- Lump-sum refund of unrecovered pension contributions (8% of salary plus interest earned)
- Paid only if your death occurs before recovering entire pension contribution (usually within the first few years of retirement)

# Survivor Benefits



1%

## Survivor Benefits

- Funded through survivor benefit contributions made while teaching (1% of annual salary)
- Tier 1 -- 50% of monthly benefit to a dependent beneficiary
- Tie 2 – 66.7% of monthly benefit to a spouse, 50% of monthly benefit to a dependent child
- Lump sum to any beneficiary
- Refundable in retirement if no dependent beneficiary



# Death Benefits:

Completing the Beneficiary Designation Form



# Option 1

## Automatic Designation – Section 3

<b>Section 1: Personal Information</b> Member First Middle Last Name: Member Address 1: Member Address 2: City State Zip:	Member ID: Home telephone number: Work telephone number: Cell phone number: Email address:
<b>Section 2: Marital Status</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married/civil union <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed   Spouse's name:	
<b>Section 3: Automatic Designation</b> <i>(commonly selected by members with a spouse or civil union partner and/or minor children)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I elect that my dependent beneficiaries, as determined at my death, receive a survivor benefit and/or a beneficiary refund. If no dependent beneficiary survives, benefits will be paid to my estate. <b>If the automatic designation is selected, do not complete the Survivor Benefit or Beneficiary Refund sections.</b>	

- Commonly selected by members who have a spouse and/or minor children.
- Death benefit is automatically paid to surviving dependents, or to your estate if you have no dependents.
- If this option is selected, DO NOT list beneficiary names. Simply check the box.

# Option 2

## Survivor Benefits

### Section 4

Section 4: Survivor Benefit*				
Primary Beneficiary(ies) - receive survivor benefits first				
1	Name:		SSN: _____	
	Address:		Birth date:	
	City:	State:	Zip:	Relationship:
2	Name:		SSN: _____	
	Address:		Birth date:	
	City:	State:	Zip:	Relationship:
3	Name:		SSN: _____	
	Address:		Birth date:	
	City:	State:	Zip:	Relationship:
Alternate Beneficiary(ies) - receive survivor benefits if no primary beneficiary survives				
1	Name:		Birth date:	SSN: _____
2	Name:		Birth date:	SSN: _____
3	Name:		Birth date:	SSN: _____

## Beneficiary Refund

### Section 5

Section 5: Beneficiary Refund*				
Primary Beneficiary(ies) - receive beneficiary refund benefits first				
1	Name:		SSN: _____	
	Address:		Birth date:	
	City:	State:	Zip:	Relationship:
2	Name:		SSN: _____	
	Address:		Birth date:	
	City:	State:	Zip:	Relationship:
3	Name:		SSN: _____	
	Address:		Birth date:	
	City:	State:	Zip:	Relationship:
Alternate Beneficiary(ies) - receive beneficiary refund benefits if no primary beneficiary survives				
1	Name:		Birth date:	SSN: _____
2	Name:		Birth date:	SSN: _____
3	Name:		Birth date:	SSN: _____



# Claiming Death Benefits



# Reporting a Death

- 1) Someone must report your death
  - Date of Death
  - Contact Person
- 2) TRS Requests Documents
  - Death Certificate
  - Beneficiary Demographic Info
  - Proof of Dependency (marriage/birth certificate, if applicable)
- 3) TRS calculates available benefit and notifies applicant
  - Monthly and lump sum option to dependent
  - Lump sum only to non-dependent
  - New direct deposit and tax withholding forms

# Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Does my spouse's benefit continue if they remarry?
- 2) Does my dependent beneficiary receive annual increases?
- 3) Can my surviving dependents get TRIP/TRAIL health insurance?
- 4) Do I have to list my spouse, or can I list my adult kids as beneficiaries?
- 5) How do I go about changing my beneficiaries?
- 6) If I take a refund of my Survivor Benefit contribution, can I pay it back if Cupid strikes?

# Contact Information

## TRS Phone & Hours



Toll-free:

(877) 927-5877

M-F: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm



Visit us

<https://trsil.org>

[www.trsil.org/deathbenefits](https://www.trsil.org/deathbenefits)



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## MyBenefits Service Center (MBSC):

**1-844-251-1777**

To select insurance carrier, add dependents, and transition  
from TRIP to TRAIL