

# OUTLIVING YOUR SPOUSAL CONTINGENT ANNUITANT



**When you retired did you name your spouse as your contingent annuitant?**

**What happens if your spouse dies and you eventually remarry?**

**This flyer will help you understand what happens when a retiree receiving PERSI benefits outlives their spousal contingent annuitant (CA) and later remarries.**

## Changing Your Contingent Annuitant

When you retired, you selected either retirement Option 1, 2, 4a or 4b, which allowed you to name a contingent annuitant to receive a monthly benefit payment after your death. By selecting one of these options, you understood your benefit would be reduced during your lifetime based on the retirement option you chose and the difference between your age and that of your contingent annuitant.

Very few circumstances exist where the contingent annuitant can be changed. One of those circumstances is after the death of a spousal contingent annuitant.

If your contingent annuitant was your spouse, and you outlive him/her then later remarry, *within one year of remarrying you may name your new spouse as your new contingent annuitant.*

## How to Submit a Change

You can submit a contingent annuitant change to PERSI by completing a new retirement application. When completing the application, you must indicate you are naming your new spouse as your contingent annuitant – and you must provide his/her name, date of birth, and social security number; you must also select a contingent annuitant retirement option. *You do not have to select the same option that was in place for your deceased spouse.* After PERSI receives the new retirement application, a **90-day waiting period** is required before the change goes into effect. All signatures on the retirement application must be notarized.

*You may want to get an estimate from PERSI before you submit a new retirement application so you'll know how much your benefit will be reduced if you name a new contingent annuitant.*

## Changes to Your Benefit Amount

When you initially retired, your benefit was reduced so a benefit payment would continue going to your contingent annuitant (spouse) after your death. If your retirement date was October 1, 1992 or later, and your date of last contribution was July 1, 1992 or later, your benefit “popped up” to the regular retirement allowance when your spouse predeceased you. The new amount is equal to what would have been in effect on the date of your contingent annuitant’s death if you had not chosen to name a contingent annuitant when you retired. Your benefit will include all cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) since your initial retirement date.

Your benefit will continue at the higher rate until the new contingent annuitant becomes effective 90-days after PERSI receives your new retirement application. When the new spousal contingent annuitant goes into effect, your benefit will be recalculated based on the retirement option you selected and the difference between your age and that of your new contingent annuitant.

If you have questions about naming a new contingent annuitant, call PERSI or visit our website:

[www.persi.idaho.gov](http://www.persi.idaho.gov)

Toll-free 1-800-451-8228

Treasure Valley 208-334-3365

*If there is any discrepancy between this document and the law, the provisions of the law will prevail.*

## Terminology

### Contingent Annuitant (CA)

The person you designated under retirement Option 1, 2, 4a or 4b to receive a monthly lifetime benefit after your death. The contingent annuitant can be your spouse or any person you name who has already been born and who is living on the effective date of your retirement (i.e., unborn children or grandchildren cannot be named as a CA).

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### Beneficiary

The person whom you designate in writing using a PERSI Beneficiary Form (RS115) to receive a lump sum payment of any contributions plus interest remaining in your PERSI account if both you and your contingent annuitant die before the balance was paid out to you or your CA.

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### Pop Up

If you selected Option 1, 2, 4a or 4b at retirement, your benefit was reduced to provide a benefit to a contingent annuitant after your death. If your CA predeceases you, your benefit will increase (pop up) to what you would have been receiving had you initially selected the regular retirement option. *(Members whose date of last contribution was prior to July 1, 1992 or whose retirement was before October 1, 1992, are not eligible for a pop up.)*