

RI 20-4, Status Of Your Workers' Compensation Claim

Your retirement file indicates you have filed a claim for benefits with the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), U.S. Department of Labor.

If you are receiving workers' compensation (except scheduled awards) from OWCP, we cannot pay you annuity benefits under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) or the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) covering the same period of time. That prohibition includes nonscheduled compensation that has been commuted to a lump-sum payment under 5 U.S.C. 8135.

If you begin receiving monthly annuity payments and are later awarded nonscheduled compensation benefits, you will have to repay those annuity payments to OPM if you elect to receive the compensation instead. Also, we have been advised by OWCP that if you elected the alternative annuity under CSRS or FERS and have received your alternative annuity lump-sum payment, you will have to repay that lump sum to OPM before OWCP will begin paying compensation benefits to you. If you are unable to pay the full amount to OPM in a lump sum, OWCP has informed us that they will send all compensation payments to OPM until those payments equal the full amount of the alternative annuity lump sum and monthly CSRS or FERS annuity payments you have received.

Please complete and return the questionnaire on the back of this letter. When we receive your completed questionnaire, we will either begin payments or tell you why payments cannot be made at this time. Thank you for your cooperation.