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Chapter 41

Subchapter 41A CSRS

Part 41A1 General Information

Section 41A1.1-1 Overview		
A. Introduction	This subchapter covers voluntary or nondisability retirement (the terms can be used interchangeably). When employees have the age and years of service required to retire with no reduction in annuity, they may retire at any time.	
B. Topics Covered	1. This subchapter covers the following items:	
-	• CSRS eligibility requirements for voluntary retirement;	
	• Commencing date of the annuity;	
	• Withdrawal of a retirement application;	
	• Documentation necessary to process a voluntary retirement under this Chapter.	
	 This Chapter does not cover voluntary retirement under the following provisions: MRA + 10 under FERS; early retirement under an OPM authority, Phased Retirements or special group provisions. For more information regarding these provisions, see the following references: 	
	 Chapter 42: Minimum Retirement Age Plus 10 years (MRA + 10) Retirement, for retirement under MRA + 10 provisions. 	
	• Chapter 43: Early Voluntary Retirement, for retirement under an OPM approved major RIF, reorganization, or transfer of function.	
	• Chapter 46: Special Retirement Provisions for Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Air Traffic Controllers, and Military Reserve Technicians.	
	• Benefits Administration Letters (BALs) 14-108, 14-109, 14-111, 14-208, 14-209, and 14-307 regarding Phased Retirement	
	3. This chapter does not cover Phased Retirement. Please see the information at <u>http://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/phased-retirement/</u> for all current information on Phased Retirement.	





Section 41A1.1-1 Overview (Cont.)

C. Organization of Subchapter

The CSRS subchapter has four parts:

PART	NAME OF PART	PAGE
41A1	General Information	1
41A2	Commencing Date of Annuity	6
41A3	Withdrawal of Retirement Application	8
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NOTE: Subchapter 41B about voluntary retirement under FERS begins on page 11.

D. Statement of Authority

This subchapter is based on the laws and regulations cited below.

- United States Code: 5 U.S.C. 8333, 8336, and 8345
- Code of Federal Regulations: 5 CFR Part 831
- Public Law 103-66 section 11002



Section 41A1.1-2 Employee Eligibility Requirements

A. General

An employee is eligible to retire voluntarily with an immediate annuity, without any reduction in annuity due to age, if all of the following conditions are met:

- Age and service requirements;
- Minimum civilian service requirement;
- Separated from a position subject to CSRS coverage; and
- "1-out-of-2" requirement. (See Subsection E Below)

B. Minimum Age and Service The employee must meet one of the age and service requirements below at separation:

AGE is at least	and CREDITABLE SERVICE is at least
62	5 years
60	20 years
55	30 years

- NOTE 1: If an employee has the minimum 5 years of creditable civilian service, creditable military service may be used to meet the balance of the years of service necessary for an optional retirement.
- NOTE 2: Public Law 104-208 gives employees who are involuntarily separated **the right** to use their annual leave to achieve initial eligibility for retirement and/or continued health benefits coverage.
- NOTE 3: If an employee does not have the years of service for a discontinued service retirement (DSR) but is eligible for voluntary retirement and the nature of separation is involuntary, the commencing date of the annuity is the day after separation/last day of pay.
- CAUTION: Accrued and unused sick leave may not be used to meet any of the service requirements noted above.





Section 41A1.1-2 Employee Eligibility Requirements (Cont.)

C. Minimum Civilian Service An employee must have at least 5 years of creditable civilian service to be eligible for a voluntary retirement. Use the method outlined in Chapter 50 for service computation, rather than the service computation date (SCD) used for leave and reduction-in-force (RIF) purposes.

Creditable civilian service for this purpose includes:

- Service for which full CSRS deductions were taken, even if CSRS deductions were refunded and not redeposited;
- Service for which full Social Security taxes and reduced CSRS deductions were taken, even if CSRS deductions were refunded and not redeposited; and
- Nondeduction service (that is, temporary or intermittent service), whether or not a deposit for such service is made or deemed made under the alternative annuity provisions (for more information see Chapter 53, Alternative Annuity Elections).
- **NOTE**: See Chapter 20, Creditable Service, for a full description of creditable service.

D.	Separation from Covered Position	The employee must be separated from a position covered by retirement deductions.	
	Covered Fosition	deductions.	
Е.	"One-Out-of-	An employee must be covered by CSRS for at least 1 year within the	
	Two''	2-year period immediately preceding the separation on which the annuity is	
	Requirement	based. The 1 year of service does not have to be continuous. The year of service does, however, have to be covered service. An employee cannot meet the requirement by paying a deposit for nondeduction service.	



In the following examples, assume the employee is 57 years old:



Chapter 41

Section 41A1.1-2 Employee Eligibility Requirements (Cont.)

E. "One-Out-of-

Two'' Requirement (Cont.)

EXAMPLE	SERVICE HISTORY	ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE?
1	Career appt. 2-1-76 Separated 4-3-05 Career reinst. 9-4-13 Separated 9-30-14	Yes
	Career appt. 2-1-76 Separated 4-3-05 Career reinst. 9-4-13 Separated 6-30-14	
2	Comment: The employee is not eligible to retire with an immediate annuity because he or she has less than 1 year of service during the 2-year period preceding the last date of separation.	No

A retiree whose separation was involuntary should be processed under F. **Employee Eligible** for More Than discontinued service retirement procedures (see Chapter 44), even though the One Type of individual meets the age and service requirements for voluntary retirement. In Retirement addition, the annuity commencing date is the day after separation/last day of pay. An employee who separates and is eligible for a deferred annuity commencing G. Employee within 30 days of the date of separation should be processed under optional Separated but Eligible for a retirement procedures even though the individual does not meet the age and **Deferred Annuity** service requirements on the date of separation. Within 30 days of Separation H. Alternative Non-disability retirees who have a life-threatening affliction or other critical medical condition currently listed in 5 CFR 831.2207 may elect the alternative **Annuity Election** annuity. See Chapter 53, Alternative Annuity Elections, for more detailed information.



Chapter 41

Part 41A2 Commencing Date of Annuity

Section 41A2.1-1 Commencing Date of Annuity

A.	General Rule	Except as explained in paragraphs B and C below, voluntary retirement annuities commence the first day of the month after the employee separates from service and meets the age and service requirements.	
		EXAMPLE 1: Date of separation: October 15 Annuity commences: November 1	
		EXAMPLE 2: Date of separation: April 27 Annuity commences: May 1	
B.	Exception: Three-Day Rule	The annuities of employees who serve in pay status for 3 days (or fewer) in the month of retirement commence on the day after separation or the day after pay ceases and the age and service requirements are met.	
		EXAMPLE: Date of separation: March 3 Annuity commences: March 4	
		For purposes of applying the 3-day rule, all daysincluding non-work days are used to determine how many days an employee is in a pay status during a month.	
C.	Examples Involving LWOP or Other Nonduty/Nonpay Status	If an employee is in a nonduty/nonpay status before retiring, his or her annuity commences the first day of the month after pay ceases and the age and service requirements are met, even though the employee had not yet separated from	
		In examples 1, 2, and 3 below, assume that the employee already meets age and service requirements:	
		EXAMPLE 1: Last day in pay status: June 30 LWOP: July 1 through 16 Separation/retirement: July 16 Annuity commences: July 1 Comment: The general "first of the month" rule applies.	





Section 41A2.1-1 Commencing Date of Annuity (Cont.)C. ExamplesEXAMPLE 2: Last day in pay status: July 2

L.	Examples Involving LWOP or Other Nonduty/Nonpay Status (Cont.)	EXAMPLE 2: Last day in pay status: July 2 LWOP: July 3 through 14 Return to duty: July 15 Separation/retirement and last day of pay: July 17 Annuity commences: August 1
		Comment: The employee was in a pay status for 5 days in July, so the general rule applies.
		EXAMPLE 3: Last day in pay status: May 1 Furlough: May 2 through 10 Return to duty: May 11
		Separation/retirement and last day of pay: May 12 Annuity commences: May 13
		Comment: The employee was in a pay status for 3 days in May, so the 3-day rule applies.
		EXAMPLE 4: Last day in pay status: September 2 LWOP: September 3 through 30 Employee becomes 55: September 20 Separation/retirement: September 30 Annuity commences: October 1
		Comment: The employee was not eligible to retire until becoming age 55 on September 20. Therefore, the general rule applies, making the commencing date October 1.



Chapter 41

Part 41A3 Withdrawal of Retirement Application

Section 41A3.1-1 Withdrawal of Retirement Application

A.	General	Voluntary retirement is a personnel action that results in a voluntary separation; thus, the filing of an application for retirement is equivalent to submitting a resignation.
		As a consequence, a retiring employee has the same rights that are available to employees involved in other voluntary actions with respect to establishing the effective date of the separation/retirement or withdrawing the application for separation/retirement.
B.	Rule: Specify Effective Date	An employee may apply for voluntary retirement at any time and specify the effective date of the separation in the application, provided the eligibility requirements are met.
C.	Rule: Withdrawal	Except as provided in paragraph D below, an agency must permit an employee to withdraw an application before the effective date of separation.
D.	Exception: Declination	An agency may decline a request to withdraw an application before the effective date of separation only when it has a valid reason and explains that reason in writing to the employee. (From 5 CFR Part 715.)
E.	Cancellation of Separation by Third Party	When an "appropriate authority" determines that the separation upon which payment has been based is an "unjustified or unwarranted personnel action" as these terms are defined in 5 CFR Section 550.804, an individual may withdraw his/her application for FERS benefits within 60 days of the decision. As provided in 5 CFR, Section 550.805, any FERS payments must be deducted from any back pay award (Reference: 5 CFR, Section 841.203(c)).



Part 41A4 Procedures

Section 41A4.1-1 Procedures

А.	General	Chapter 40, Planning and Applying for Retirement, provides detailed instructions on the completion of the forms identified below and the information and guidance that must be given retiring employees.
B. Employee		The employee must complete:
	Responsibility	- Standard Form 2801, Application for Retirement (and Schedules A, B, and C when necessary)
		If the employee has been separated 30 days or less before the application is filed, the application and other forms must be filed with the agency. If the employee has been separated more than 30 days, the application must be filed directly with OPM.
C.	Agency	The agency must:
	Responsibility	- Provide the employee with an Application for Retirement (SF 2801) and any other necessary forms;
		- Complete Certified Summary of Federal Service (SF 2801-1);
		 Complete Agency Checklist of Immediate Retirement Procedures (SF 2801-Schedule D);
		- The agency must provide documentation of an employee's entire FEHB coverage history, we must have proof of coverage during the 5 years of service immediately prior to retirement (or if less than 5 years, during all service in which the employee was eligible for FEHB). Documentation of the employee's FEHB status and eligibility to continue coverage into retirement must be included in the retirement application package along with a memorandum noting any circumstances that would help us determine the employee's eligibility to continue coverage. The preferred documentation is to provide copies of all SF 2809s for at least the 5 years period prior to separation. When such documentation is incomplete, the agency should provide a memorandum as in accordance with BAL 14-103, dated 03/30/2014.
		- Send the employee's Individual Retirement Record (SF 2806) to OPM with the retirement application attached, insuring that they are sent early enough to be received by OPM within 30 days of separation.
D.	OPM Address	Send all correspondence regarding voluntary retirement to: Office of Personnel Management Retirement Operations Center Post Office Box 45





Boyers, PA 16020



Chapter 41

Subchapter 41B FERS

Part 41B1 General Information

Section 41B1.1-1 Overview

A. Introduction Subchapter 41B outlines the rules and policies applicable to voluntary retirement (with no reduction for age) under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).

> This subchapter explains how FERS differs from CSRS. It refers to the applicable CSRS rule or gives the FERS rule if it is different.

NOTE: Voluntary retirement under the MRA + 10 provisions is covered in Chapter 42, MRA + 10 Retirement.

B. Organization of Subchapter

Т

The FERS	subchapter	has	four parts.	
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PART	NAME OF PART	PAGE
41B1	General Information	12
41B2	Commencing Date of Annuity	17
41B3	Miscellaneous Provisions	18
41B4	Procedures	19

C. Statement of This subchapter is based on the laws and regulations cited below. Authority

- United States Code: 5 U.S.C. 8410, 8412, and 8464
 - Code of Federal Regulations: 5 CFR Parts 841, 842, and 846





Section 41B1.1-2 Employee Eligibility Requirements

A. General An employee is eligible to retire voluntarily with an immediate annuity, without any reduction in annuity due to age, if all of the following conditions are met:

- Service requirement;
- Minimum civilian service requirement;
- Separation from a position subject to FERS coverage; and
- Minimum Retirement Age (MRA).
- **NOTE**: There is no "1-out-of-2" requirement under FERS as there is under CSRS. Thus, an employee who elects to transfer to FERS does not have to be under FERS for one year to be eligible to retire. It is possible for an employee's separation for retirement to occur on the same day (but not before) the FERS election becomes effective, provided that the employee meets the other requirements.

Likewise, an employee who had FERS coverage in his or her last period of service could retire at any time after being reemployed if he or she has the required age and service.

Minimum Age В. and Service

1. The employee must meet one of the age and service requirements below at separation:

AGE is at least	and CREDITABLE SERVICE is at least
62	5 years
60	20 years
MRA	30 years

2. If an employee has the minimum 5 years of creditable civilian service, creditable military service may be used to meet the balance of years of service necessary for a voluntary retirement.



Section 41B1.1-2 Employee Eligibility Requirements (Cont.)		
В.	Minimum Age and Service (Cont.)	3. Under FERS, post-1956 military service cannot be used to meet the service requirement unless the employee makes the military service deposit before retirement. The deposit may not be deemed paid under the alternative annuity provisions.
		NOTE: Public Law 104-208 gives employees who are involuntarily separated the right to use their annual leave to achieve initial eligibility for retirement and/or continued health benefits coverage.
		CAUTION: Accrued and unused sick leave may not be used to meet any of the service requirements noted above.
C.	Minimum Civilian Service	An employee must have at least 5 years of creditable civilian service to be eligible for a voluntary retirement.
		Creditable civilian service for this purpose includes:
		• Service for which full FERS deductions are made even if FERS deductions were refunded and not redeposited,
		• Nondeduction service (that is, temporary or intermittent service) performed prior to January 1, 1989, if a deposit for such service is made or deemed made under the alternative annuity provisions;
		• A period of service that was creditable under the Foreign Service Pension System (FSPS), if the employee waives credit for such service under FSPS and makes a payment to the retirement fund equal to the amount that would have been deducted from pay (plus interest) had the employee been subject to FERS coverage during such period of service; and
		• Full-time service as a volunteer or volunteer leader with the Peace Corps or VISTA performed at any time prior to separation, if a deposit has been made for the service. Credit is given for satisfactory volunteer service with these organizations (excluding training time) without regard to when the service was performed or the individual's eligibility for Social Security benefits. The deposit rules changed with the passage of Public Law 103-82, the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 and Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1993. (See Chapter 21, Service Credit Payments for Civilian Service, for detailed information on Peace Corps or VISTA volunteer service credit payments.)
		• Service for which full Social Security taxes and full or reduced CSRS

• Service for which full Social Security taxes and full or reduced CSRS deductions were taken, even if CSRS deductions were refunded and not redeposited



Chapter 41

Section 41B1.1-2 Employee Eligibility Requirements (Cont.)				
C.	Minimum Civilian Service	For individuals eligible for a CSRS annuity component:		
	(Cont.)	• Nondeduction CSRS service (that is, temporary or intermittent service), whether or not a deposit for such service is made or deemed made under the alternative annuity provisions;		
		• Service for which full CSRS deductions were taken even if CSRS deductions were refunded and not redeposited.		
		NOTE : Refer to Chapter 20 for a full description of creditable service. Please note that as of the date of this update to Chapter 41, Chapter 20 has not been updated to incorporate changes the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 made to the service credit rules for refunded service under FERS. The law now permits individuals who were covered under FERS on/after October 28, 2009, to make a redeposit for refunded FERS service. If the redeposit is completed, the service will be used in the computation of the FERS annuity. If the redeposit is not paid, the service will still be used toward title to an annuity, but not to compute the annuity.		
D.	Noncreditable Civilian Service	The following service performed under FERS may not be used in meeting the 5-year minimum service requirement:		
		• Nondeduction service (that is, temporary or intermittent service) performed on or after January 1, 1989, unless it is credited in a CSRS component.		
E.	Separation from Covered Position	The employee must be separated from a position covered by FERS deductions.		
F.	Minimum Retirement Age (MRA)	The MRA is the earliest age that an employee with 30 years of creditable service is eligible for voluntary retirement without any reduction due to age.		
		Depending on the employee's year of birth, the MRA ranges between ages 55 and 57. See the table on the following page.		

CSRS



To determine the MRA, refer to the table below.

Section 41B1.1-2 Employee Eligibility Requirements (Cont.)

F. Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) (Cont.)

IF YEAR OF BIRTH IS	THE MINIMUM RETIREMENT AGE IS
Before 1948	55
1948	55 and 2 months
1949	55 and 4 months
1950	55 and 6 months
1951	55 and 8 months
1952	55 and 10 months
1953-1964	56
1965	56 and 2 months
1966	56 and 4 months
1967	56 and 6 months
1968	56 and 8 months
1969	56 and 10 months
1970 and After	57





Section 41B2.1-1 Commencing Date of Annuity

Except as explained in paragraph B below, voluntary retirement annuities A. Rule commence the first day of the month after separation for retirement. Unlike CSRS, there is no special provision for employees who serve three days or less in the month of retirement or any provision allowing a voluntary retirement annuity to begin on the day after the last day of pay. **EXAMPLE 1:** Date of separation: October 31 Annuity commences: November 1 EXAMPLE 2: Date of separation: March 3 Annuity commences: April 1 EXAMPLE 3: Last day of pay: June 2 Date of separation: June 15 Annuity commences: July 1 If a separation occurs because of the expiration of a term or other period for **B.** Exception: **Elected**/ which the person was appointed or elected, the annuity commences the day Appointed after separation for retirement. Officials



Chapter 41

Part 41B3 Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 41B3.1-1 Miscellaneous Provisions

A.	Retiree Annuity Supplement	A retiree annuity supplement is payable to an employee who:	
	Supprement	 Is retiring under an immediate voluntary annuity. Has completed at least 1 month of FERS service. Is under age 62. 	
		For rules regarding eligibility for and payment of the retiree annuity supplement, see Chapter 51, Retiree Annuity Supplement."	
B.	Establishment of Separation Date	The CSRS rule regarding an employee's right to specify the effective date of his or her separation/retirement also applies under FERS. (See section 41A3.1-1, paragraph B.)	
C.	Withdrawal of Retirement Application	 The CSRS rules in section 41A3.1-1, paragraphs C, D, and E apply to a FERS employee. In addition, the following rules apply to FERS employees. 	
		2. Except as provided in paragraph 3 below, a separated FERS covered employee may withdraw his or her application for benefits until a payment based upon that application has been authorized, but not thereafter.	
		Withdrawal of the application for retirement annuity after separation does not, however, cancel the employee's separation except as provided in section 41A3.1-1, paragraph E.	
		3. A separated employee may not withdraw his or her application for benefits if OPM has received a certified copy of a qualifying court order awarding benefits to a spouse or former spouse.	



Part 41B4 Procedures

Section 41B4.1-1 Procedures

А.	General	Chapter 40, Planning and Applying for Retirement, provides detailed instructions on the completion of the forms mentioned below and the
		information and guidance that must be given to retiring employees.
B.	Employee	The employee must complete:
	Responsibility	• Standard Form 3107, Application for Retirement (and Schedules A, B, and C when necessary); and
		 Standard Form 3107-2, Spouse's Consent to Survivor Election, if applicable. If the employee has been separated 30 days or less before the application is filed, the application and other forms must be filed with the agency. If the employee has been separated more than 30 days, the application must be filed directly with OPM.
		The employee is also responsible for reviewing and updating all designation of beneficiary forms (SF 3102 and SF 2823).
C.	Agency Responsibility	 The agency must: Provide the employee with an Application for Retirement (SF 3107), and any other necessary forms;
		• Complete Certified Summary of Federal Service (SF 3107-1);
		• Complete Agency Checklist of Immediate Retirement Procedures (SF 3107, Schedule D);
		• The agency must provide documentation of an employee's entire FEHB coverage history, we must have proof of coverage during the 5 years of service immediately prior to retirement (or if less than 5 years, during all service in which the employee was eligible for FEHB). Documentation of the employee's FEHB status and eligibility to continue coverage into retirement must be included in the retirement application package along with a memorandum noting any circumstances that would help us determine the employee's eligibility to continue coverage. The preferred documentation is to provide copies of all SF 2809s for at least the 5 years period prior to separation. When such documentation is incomplete, the agency should provide a memorandum as in accordance with BAL 14-103, dated 03/30/2014.
		 Send the employee's Individual Retirement Record (SF 3100) and all FERS Designation of Beneficiary forms (SF 3102) to OPM, with the retirement application attached, within 30 days of separation.
		NOTE: An SF 2806 is also required if the employee transferred to FERS

Voluntary Retirement Based on Age and Service



Chapter 41

and is eligible for a CSRS annuity component.

Section 41B4.1-1 Procedures (Cont.)				
D.	OPM Address	Send all correspondence regarding voluntary retirement to:		
		Office of Personnel Management		
		Federal Employees Retirement System		
		Retirement Operations Center		
		Post Office Box 200		
		Boyers, PA 16020		