

Retirement Options



San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement Association

When you retire you will be given the following retirement options. The option you choose will determine the benefits you will receive and how much your beneficiary is paid after your death. Once your first benefit is paid, the option you choose is irrevocable, and under most options and circumstances you will not be able to change your beneficiary once you have retired. You are encouraged to weigh this decision carefully. There are several choices so that you may select the retirement option that works best for you and your beneficiary.

Option	Benefits to You	Benefits to Your Beneficiary	Eligible Beneficiaries	Ability to Change Beneficiaries
Unmodified Option	The maximum lifetime retirement benefit for which you are eligible	Lifetime monthly continuance of 60% of the amount you were receiving to your eligible spouse or registered domestic partner. A minor child receives the benefit until age 18 or marriage; or up to age 22 if they are an unmarried full time student at an accredited school. If there is more than one minor child the benefit may be split between them.	If there is no eligible beneficiary, then a lump sum of undistributed refundable contributions, if any, can be given to your designated beneficiary. If your spouse/ domestic partner was receiving a benefit then dies, payments will stop and no further benefits will be paid.	ONLY circumstance under which you may change your beneficiary after you retire: you are married, remarried or registered for at least two years to a partner age 55 or older at the time of your death and no other beneficiary is entitled to a benefit.
Option 1	A reduced lifetime retirement benefit based on your life expectancy	Any undistributed refundable contributions will be paid to your designated beneficiary or estate in a lump sum		Only option that allows you to change your beneficiary after retirement without limits.
Option 2	A reduced lifetime retirement benefit based on your age and the age of your beneficiary	Lifetime monthly continuance of 100% of the amount you were receiving	Your designated beneficiary must have an insurable interest in your life. When your beneficiary dies, payments stop and no further benefits are paid.	You cannot change your beneficiary after you retire, even if your beneficiary predeceases you.
Option 3	A reduced lifetime retirement benefit based on your age and the age of your beneficiary	Lifetime monthly continuance of 50% of the amount you were receiving	Your designated beneficiary must have an insurable interest in your life. When your beneficiary dies, payments stop and no further benefits are paid.	You cannot change your beneficiary after you retire, even if your beneficiary predeceases you.
Option 4	A reduced lifetime retirement benefit based on your age and the age of your beneficiary(ies)	Custom continuance to one or more beneficiaries	This option requires that you pay for an actuarial study conducted by SBCERA's actuary to perform a custom calculation..	You cannot change beneficiary(ies) after you retire, even if your beneficiary predeceases you.

The modified options reduce your monthly benefit in order to provide a lifetime monthly continuance for your beneficiary. If you select one of the modified benefit options and your designated beneficiary predeceases you, your monthly benefit cannot be changed and will remain reduced. For options 2, 3 and 4, the designated beneficiary **must have insurable interest in your life**. Somebody with an "insurable interest" is a person who would suffer a financial loss as a result of your death and you can prove the individual is of personal value to you such as a spouse, parent, child or business partner.