



Ohio National Guard Federal Employee Benefits Bulletin

Bulletin Number: OH-17	Date: 5 October 2022
Applicability: National Guard (NG) Technicians (T5 and T32)	Subject: Divorce Decrees / Court Orders / Retirement

Background: A court order or divorce decree may independently affect any of the three types of retirement benefits paid by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). These benefits include: employee annuity payments, refunds of employee contributions, and survivor annuities.

Implementation: The employee must send a certified copy of any divorce decree or court order, and any applicable amendments, to the OPM. The employee should send that information one year in advance of retirement, or, if a decree/order is completed within a year of retirement, then send it immediately. It is highly recommended to mail the copies by certified mail, so the employee will receive proof of receipt from OPM.

OPM will send the documents to the Court Ordered Benefits Branch to review ahead of the employee's retirement. Once the review is complete, OPM will send a determination letter directly to the employee. The employee must send a copy of the determination letter HRO for placement in the employee's electronic official personnel file.

Mail documents to OPM at the following address:

Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
Court Ordered Benefits Branch
P.O. Box 17
Washington, D.C. 20044

Looking at Retirement: A copy of the determination letter and divorce decree must accompany the retirement packet and should be brought with the employee to the HRO retirement appointment so the Retirement Specialist can validate the documents.

If the employee waits and sends the divorce decree with their retirement packet, the retirement process may be extended by an additional 9 months while the Court Ordered Benefits Branch reviews all documents. OPM is also unable to issue retirement payments, to include interim pay, to the employee during this review period.

For any other questions or concerns regarding any of the information listed above or on any Technician Benefits, please contact the Benefits email distro at:

ng.oh.oharnq.list.j1-hro-benefits@army.mil