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Travis County ESD No. 6 Firefighters' Relief & Retirement Fund (Plan) Domestic Relations Order (DRO)

A “Domestic Relations Order” (DRO) has the meaning of a judgment, decree or order for your retirement plan to pay marital property rights to your spouse or pay alimony to your spouse, child support, property rights to your former spouse, children or other dependents

Please Note a DRO must be a qualified (DRO) (QDRO) before a benefit can be paid from the plan

Important Procedures To Qualify The DRO

Procedures for the Board of Trustees of The Plan to Administer and Qualify a Domestic Relations Order (DRO):

When You or Your Attorney Give The Board Of Trustees a DRO

The Administrative head or the Board of Trustees will provide you with the following:

- 1) A copy of the Retirement Benefits Records Authorization Form
See **AUTHORIZATION RELEASE FORM**
This form is a form produced by the Board of Trustees which authorizes release of information from the Board to you and all parties of interest
- 2) A copy of the Domestic Relations Order (DRO) Model produced by the Board of Trustees
See **QDRO MODEL**
This model represents a template of how the attorney's (DRO) should be represented to the judge
- 3) A copy of the retirement system plan design (document)
See **PLAN BENEFIT GUIDE**
This document represents the rules and regulations of the plan
- 4) A copy of the Texas Local Fire Fighters' Retirement Act (ACT) (Article 6243e Vernon's Texas Civil Statute) See **TLFFRA STATUTE**
This is the statute that governs the plan's design (document)
- 5) A copy of a benefit calculation estimate based on your estimated date of divorce
This estimate defines your total contributions which could be represented in the DRO or it can define the benefit derived by your age and service which could be represented in the DRO.
- 6) A copy of your contribution report from
Date of Marriage to Date of your Estimated Divorce Date
- 7) A copy of frequently asked questions with answers to assist you in making this process a much comfortable process or the administrator can provide a time and date when they may be available to answer any questions you may have.

When Your Spouse or Your Spouse's Attorney Give The Board of Trustees a DRO

The Administrative head or the Board of Trustees will provide you with the following:

- 1) A copy of the Retirement Benefits Records Authorization Form
See **AUTHORIZATION RELEASE FORM**
This form is a form produced by the Board of Trustees which authorizes release of information from the Board to you and all Parties of Interest
- 2) A copy of the Domestic Relations Order (DRO) Model produced by the Board of Trustees.
See **ODRO MODEL**
This model represents a template of how the attorney's (DRO) should be represented to the judge
- 3) A copy of the retirement system plan design (document)
See **PLAN BENEFIT GUIDE**
This document represents the rules and regulations of the plan.
- 4) A copy of the Texas Local Fire Fighters' Retirement Act (ACT) (Article 6243e Vernon's Texas Civil Statute) See **TLFFRA STATUTE**
This is the statute that governs the plan's design (document)
- 5) A copy of frequently asked questions with answers to assist the person's of interest in making this process a much comfortable process or the administrator can provide a time and date when they may be available to answer any questions they may have.

Once The Divorce Process Is Complete

You/Ex-Spouse or Attorneys must Deliver a Certified Copy of the Final Divorce Decree to the Board of Trustees

The Administrative head or the Board of Trustees will:

- 1) Review Divorce Decree Document to Qualify the section related to (DRO)
- 2) May send Divorce Decree Document to Plan's Attorney if document is questionable
- 3) May send Divorce Decree Document to Plan's Attorney to qualify the (DRO) but not required.

Please Note: The Board of Trustees of the plan have elected to adopt Qualified Domestic Relations Order within the meaning of Chapter 804 of the Texas Government Code Chapter 804 governs their procedures.

PAYMENTS TO FORMER SPOUSES AND OTHER ALTERNATE PAYEES

Payments to Former Spouses and Other Alternate Payees - Notwithstanding the anti-alienation limits of Section 5 of the Texas Local Fire Fighters' Retirement Act(TLFFRA), withdrawn Employee Contributions, Retirement Benefits, Disability Benefits and Death Benefits under the Plan may be paid to a former spouse or other alternate payee under the terms of a domestic relations order, **but only if the Board of Trustees determines that the order constitutes a Qualified Domestic Relations Order within the meaning of Chapter 804 of the Texas Government Code (referred to here as a "QDRO")**. The Board of Trustees shall make such determination under any policies regarding Domestic Relations Orders and Qualified Domestic Relations Orders adopted by the Board of Trustees. Benefit payments shall be made to alternate payees only when and to the extent permitted by the QDRO. The amount of any withdrawn Employee Contribution or benefit payment under the Plan made to an alternate payee under a QDRO shall reduce and offset the amount otherwise payable to you or other beneficiary under the provisions of the Plan. If a portion of a withdrawn Employee Contribution or benefit payment under the Plan exceeds the amount awarded by the QDRO, such excess portion will be distributed in accordance with the Plan provisions. Upon the death of an alternate payee under a QDRO, the interest of the alternate payee in the benefits under the Plan shall cease, and thereafter, remaining Plan benefits shall be paid to you as if the QDRO had not existed.