

# Retirement Options

Kansas Public Employees Retirement System Tier 2

**Retirement is a major milestone** in the lives of most adults. Hopefully you've been preparing for years, and you are ready to take the big plunge.

You now have decisions to make that will greatly impact your financial future. Among those is choosing which type of KPERS retirement option is best for you.

As a retired KPERS member, you will receive a monthly retirement benefit for the rest of your life. In addition, KPERS has retirement payment options that add financial flexibility and allow you to provide for loved ones after your death.

Your decision about which option to take is crucial, because once you make a choice, you cannot change it. Consider all of your options carefully so you can make the best decision for you and your loved ones.

It may be helpful to see how different options and scenarios affect your monthly benefit amount. Use our online calculator at [www.kpers.org](http://www.kpers.org) to put dollar amounts with your choices. You can also schedule a personal counseling appointment with a KPERS staff member to discuss your retirement options.



## Ready, Set, Go

- Find out when you're eligible for retirement benefits
- Estimate your benefit at [www.kpers.org](http://www.kpers.org) or ask for one from KPERS
- Evaluate payment options
- Complete an Application for Retirement Benefits form (KPERS-15) at least 30 days before the day you want to retire
- Obtain birth and name change documents needed for the retirement application
- Review your beneficiary designation
- Determine your tax withholding requirements
- Confirm your Social Security benefits
- Decide if you want to continue group life insurance coverage
- Finalize any health and long-term care insurance
- Review your personal retirement savings and investments

### Scenario for All of Our Examples

Here is the scenario we'll use for all of our payment option examples:

Dan is retiring at age 65. His wife, Sue, is age 62. Dan's final average salary is \$22,858, and he has 30 years of service. His retirement benefit is calculated using the following formula:

**Final ave. salary x statutory multiplier x years of service = annual benefit**

$$\$22,858 \quad \times \quad 1.75\% \quad \times \quad 30 \quad = \quad \$12,000$$

### Important

Calculate an actual retirement estimate based on your individual situation before making any decisions.

Contact KPERS or your designated agent for help.

## Maximum Monthly Option

KPERS will first establish your maximum monthly benefit amount. This amount provides the basis for the rest of your options. You can choose to stay with this maximum monthly benefit amount without any survivor options. You will receive a payment each month for the rest of your life. After your death, your beneficiary will receive the balance of any remaining money that you contributed to KPERS. There is no continued monthly benefit after your death.

### Example

Dan's annual benefit is \$12,000.  $\$12,000 \div 12 = \$1,000$  per month

### Retiree Death Benefit

With all benefit options, KPERS pays a \$4,000 lump-sum death benefit. You can choose a person, your estate, a trust or a funeral establishment to receive the death benefit.

## Joint-Survivor Options

You may want to provide a continuing monthly benefit for someone after your death. You can do this by choosing a joint-survivor option. Your survivor, also called a joint annuitant, cannot be changed once you retire. After your death, your survivor will receive a monthly benefit for the rest of his or her life.

The three joint-survivor options:

- 50 percent
- 75 percent
- 100 percent

The percentages show your survivor's benefit amount compared to your benefit amount. Your survivor can receive 50 percent of your benefit amount or 75 percent. You can also choose the 100 percent option, and he or she will receive the same benefit amount that you received before your death.

In order to provide the continuing benefit, your regular monthly benefits will be reduced. The higher your survivor's benefit, the lower yours will be during retirement. If he or she dies before you, your survivor option is canceled and your benefit increases to your original maximum monthly benefit amount.

The difference between your ages also affects your benefit amount. If your survivor is younger than you, your benefit will be decreased. If your survivor is older, your benefit will be increased. Actuarial tables and factors are used to calculate these adjustments.

### Example

Dan's maximum monthly benefit is \$1,000. He chooses the 50 percent joint-survivor option for his wife, Sue. Dan's benefit is reduced by a factor from an actuarial table to provide the survivor benefit.

Dan's monthly maximum	\$1,000
Adjustment factor for Dan's and Sue's ages	x .91693%
Dan's adjusted monthly benefit	\$916.93
Sue's monthly survivor benefit (50% of Dan's)	\$458.46
Dan's monthly benefit after first 2% COLA	\$935.26
Sue's monthly survivor benefit (50% of Dan's)	\$467.63

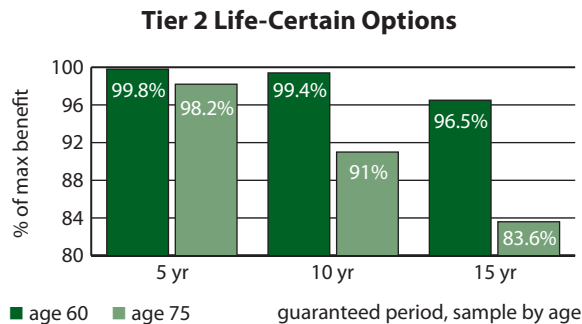
## Life-Certain Options

With a life-certain option, you'll receive a monthly benefit for the rest of your life. If you die within a guaranteed period of time from your retirement date, your beneficiary will receive the same monthly benefit you have been receiving for the rest of the guaranteed period. You can change beneficiaries at any time, and you can have any number of beneficiaries at once. They will share the benefit equally.

The three life-certain options:

- Five-year period
- Ten-year period
- 15-year period

In order to provide the continuing benefit, your regular monthly benefits will be reduced.



The longer the guaranteed period, the more your benefit is reduced. Your benefit is also affected by your age at retirement. The older you are, the more your benefit is reduced. Tier 2 uses actuarial tables and factors to calculate adjustments.

### Example

Dan's maximum monthly benefit is \$1,000. He chooses the ten-year life certain option for his wife, Sue. As a Tier 2 member, Dan's benefit is reduced by the reduction factor for age 65 from an actuarial table (0.97427) for a monthly benefit of \$974.27. He receives \$974.27 a month for the rest of his life, no matter how long he lives.

Dan dies seven years after he retires. As his chosen beneficiary, Sue will receive \$974.27 a month for three more years. Dan's seven years plus Sue's three total the ten years Dan was guaranteed. If Dan had named his two daughters as beneficiaries instead of Sue, the daughters would share the \$974.27 monthly benefit and each would receive \$487.13 a month for three years.

## Partial Lump-Sum Option (PLSO)

You can take part of your retirement benefit in an up-front lump sum at retirement. This lump sum is then combined with one of the other retirement options to provide reduced, regular monthly payments for the rest of your life. *Choosing the PLSO will reduce your monthly benefits, no matter which other option you choose.*

Tier 2 members can choose a 10, 20 or 30 percent option. The percentage you select determines the size of the lump sum and the decrease in your monthly benefit.

**For example:** a 30 percent PLSO payment would result in a single lump-sum payment equal to 30 percent of the actuarial present value of your lifetime benefit, along with a permanent 30 percent reduction in your monthly benefit.

## COLAs

Cost-of-living adjustments are increases in your benefit amount after you retire. No matter which retirement option you choose, you'll receive a 2 percent COLA each July 1 beginning the year you turn age 65 or the second July 1 after your retirement date, whichever is later.

## Other Information

Your retirement benefits are based on your age, salary and years of service, including both prior and participating service. See the KPERS Membership Guide or visit [www.kpers.org](http://www.kpers.org) for more information on the calculation process. You can calculate your own retirement benefit estimate using the benefit calculator at [www.kpers.org](http://www.kpers.org) or you can request an estimate from KPERS. These are wise steps when considering your options before retirement.

Since your employer is an important part of your retirement process, be sure to keep your designated agent informed of your retirement plans. Try to give as much notice as you can before you retire. Find out if you are eligible for any additional benefits or programs from your employer and coordinate health care and life insurance coverage.

If you don't have one already, you can download and print the Application for Retirement Benefits booklet (KPERS-15) at [www.kpers.org](http://www.kpers.org) or contact us and we can mail a copy to you.

## Other Helpful Contacts

- Social Security Administration: 1-800-772-1213  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)
- Internal Revenue Service: 1-800-829-1040  
[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

## Contact Us

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*Certain generalizations have been made in this publication. Kansas law and the rules adopted by the Board of Trustees will control specific situations.*

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