Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension & Relief Fund
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DATE: **July 13, 2009**

TO: **All Parish Liaison Personnel**

RE: **Designation of Beneficiary Form**

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund recently approved the enclosed "Designation of Beneficiary" form for use by all active, inactive, and deferred members.

Members can use this form to designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries to receive payment of their employee contributions in the event of the member's death. Please be aware that this designation does not supersede the rights of qualified survivors (spouse, children) entitled to a monthly survivor's benefit.

This form will now be a part of our enrollment packet for new members. For current members who are interested in designating a beneficiary or beneficiaries a copy can be made of the attached form, our office can send you a supply of the forms upon your request, or we can email you a word document of the form which can be saved and printed as needed. In addition, members will be able to download a copy of the form from the Fund's website in the very near future.

For your convenience we are providing a list of frequently asked questions on the following page. If you should have any questions or need additional information concerning the "Designation of Beneficiary" form please do not hesitate to contact Lacey Louque, Membership Supervisor, at 1-800-586-9049.

DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can I designate someone other than my spouse as my primary beneficiary?

A. Yes, you can designate someone other than your spouse as your primary beneficiary. However, the Designation of Beneficiary does not supersede the community property laws of Louisiana. If you have a spouse or ex-spouse who has a community property interest in your employee contributions with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Pension & Relief Fund that interest must be honored according to those laws governing community property. However, by designating a beneficiary or beneficiaries you can designate whom you want to receive **your** portion of that community property.

Q. Can I designate a trust fund as my beneficiary?

A. Yes, you can designate a trust fund as either your primary or contingent beneficiary. We do ask that you provide the Fund with a certified copy of the trust fund documents along with your designation of beneficiary form.

Q. I am a vested member (12 or more years of service) of the Sheriffs' Pension Fund. If I die, my wife and/or my minor children will receive a survivor's benefit. Why should I designate a beneficiary?

A. We recommend that a vested member designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries due to the possibility that their spouse may pre-decease them and the children may no longer be minors at the time of the member's death. With no surviving spouse or minor children, there would be no survivor benefit to be paid. The only payment by the Fund would be that of the member's employee contributions.

Q. Can I designate someone who is a citizen of another country as my beneficiary?

A. Yes, you may designate someone who is a citizen of another country as your beneficiary. In the event of your death, payment of your employee contributions will be made according to the dictates of the treaty governing such payments that exists between the United States and the beneficiary's country of origin.

Q. How often can I make changes to my designation of beneficiary?

A. You can make changes to your designation of beneficiary at any time. In fact, we recommend you review this designation periodically to insure that it accurately reflects your wishes.