



Insurance Responsibilities

The following is a list of your responsibilities as a retiree/survivor of the State of Illinois Group Insurance Program.

Robin Edgar is the JRS Group Insurance Representative at 217-785-6966. She should be notified **immediately** when a life event occurs that may affect your eligibility or your dependent's eligibility. If you are unsure if an event could affect your group insurance coverage, we strongly urge you to contact your JRS representative. Life changing events include the following:

- Birth/adoption of a child
- Marriage
- Divorce, legal separation, annulment
- Death of a spouse or dependent
- Changes in employment status that could affect eligibility
- Your dependent gets group insurance through their employer
- Your dependent no longer meets the eligibility requirements
- You gain or lose custody of a dependent through a court order

NOTE: When adding or dropping a dependent, proper documentation must accompany your request.

Please notify Robin Edgar **immediately** when you change your home address or you experience a change in your Medicare status or if another insurance plan becomes your primary plan.

Active Judges Benefit Statement

Enclosed with this edition of the Panel is your annual Benefit Statement if **you are currently serving on the bench**. Your statement only displays the last four numbers of your Social Security number to help protect you from identity theft. Keep your Benefit Statement and Social Security card in a safe, secure place.

Your JRS Benefit Statement shows any reciprocal service you may have, along with a retirement benefit estimate at your normal retirement date using the Reciprocal Act. To determine your total benefit, add the projected JRS benefit to the amount from the reciprocal system(s).

If your statement shows reciprocal service but no amount, you probably don't have enough service to utilize the Reciprocal Act, or you may have concurrent service with JRS and another system, or you may not need the service to qualify for the maximum benefit.

You can calculate your maximum benefit by multiplying your current salary by 85%. This will allow you to compare your benefit with the maximum benefit. Although we make every effort to provide you with an accurate benefit estimate, it is only an approximation. If you have questions, contact our office at 217-782-8500.

Benefit Statements for retirees and survivors are NOT included with this Panel. These statements will be mailed in March, 2008. Only active members receive a statement with this mailing.

JRS Recently Deceased

	<i>Date of Death</i>		<i>Date of Death</i>
Henry Cowlin	1-11-07	Gerald Rohrer	4-06-07
Arlie Boswell, Jr.	2-11-07	Charles Wilson	4-24-07
Alfred Woodward	2-20-07	John Flaherty	5-21-07
Cornelius Houtsma	3-05-07	Robert Retke	5-25-07
Howard White	3-10-07	Robert Schwartz	6-02-07
Norman Sands	3-27-07	Michael Lyons	6-14-07
Rolland Tipsword	4-05-07	Mitchell Leikin	7-12-07

Who Participates in the Deferred Compensation?

Each year, the Deferred Compensation Program compiles a “participant profile” describing the characteristics of state employees within each agency. The latest report is based on the 2006 salary data from the Office of the Comptroller.

The average State enrollee is a married man age 46, earning more than \$57,000 annually, who defers \$3,887 annually, and has amassed over \$45,000 in his account.

During 2006, 632 participants deferred the \$15,000 maximum, and another 1,746 utilized the age 50 “catch-up” which allows these participants to defer \$20,000 in 2006.

At the end of 2006, there were 943 active judges, and 381 are currently participating in the Deferred Compensation Program.

CONCLUSIONS

The Deferred Compensation Program is experiencing increased enrollment again. Enrollment efforts by the liaisons, and educational efforts by CMS and JRS has resulted in more participation of JRS members and greater deferrals by our current enrollees.

The trend in the investment industry to promote fund diversification resulted in 53% of our participants deferring into three or more funds. The Stable Return Fund now contains 20% of the Plan’s monies, while the Columbia Acorn Fund contains 35%, compared to just 11% in 1990.

If you are interested in more information regarding the Deferred Compensation program, call them at 217-785-1966.

1-on-1 Counseling Schedule

The dates and locations for the remaining 1-on-1 counseling sessions in 2007 are listed below. We will ask the Court Administrator at each location to contact the judges in each area about our upcoming 1-on-1 sessions. The Court Administrator will then schedule 1-on-1 appointments for judges to meet with Jayne Waldeck from the JRS office.

September 20

Cook County Courthouse
Sixth Municipal District
Markham 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

September 20

Cook County Courthouse
Fifth Municipal District
Bridgeview 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

September 21

Cook County Courthouse
Third Municipal District
Rolling Meadows 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

October 19

McDonough County Courthouse
Macomb 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

October 19

Adams County Courthouse
Quincy 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

November 29

Montgomery County Courthouse
Hillsboro 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

November 29

Madison County Courthouse
Edwardsville 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

November 30

St. Clair County Courthouse
Belleville 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

December 12

New Judges’ Orientation
Chicago Holiday Inn City Center

JRS Workshop



Judges of all ages and years of service should attend the *Education for Tomorrow’s Choices* (ETC) pre-retirement workshop.

This free, one-day workshop will be held in Fairview Heights on Monday, October 15, 2007 at the Four Points by Sheraton, 319 Fountains Parkway.

The ETC features a certified financial planner to discuss money management and investment strategies. Other speakers will cover Deferred Compensation, Social Security, insurance and JRS benefits.

To make a reservation for this workshop, call the JRS office at 217-782-8500.

FY08 JRS Salaries

Supreme Court Justice	\$189,135
Appellate Court Justice	\$178,011
Circuit Court Judge	\$163,348
Associate Court Judge	\$155,181

Effective July 19, 2007, a survivor is not eligible to add newly acquired dependents to their group insurance coverage unless the dependent is the natural or adopted child of the deceased member

Understanding Your Statement

If you are actively serving on the bench as a judge, your annual benefit statement for the year ending June 30, 2007 is enclosed with this copy of The Panel. Your statement reflects your salary on July 1, 2007. If you have questions about your statement, call us at 217-782-8500.

At right is a **SAMPLE** statement highlighting the areas where members usually have the most questions.

If you do not agree with the service shown on your statement, contact JRS at 217-782-8500.

If you are purchasing service credit, it will not be shown on your statement until it is paid in full.

This is the projected JRS benefit you are eligible to receive, assuming continuous service to normal retirement age. If you have reciprocal service listed below, add the two amounts together to estimate your combined benefit.

This is your accrued benefit estimate, assuming termination of service on the date shown on YOUR statement. Do not add reciprocal service to this amount.

The survivor benefit payable to a spouse is 66 2/3% of the earned benefit, or 7.5% of your final salary, whichever is greater.

Judges' Retirement System of Illinois

2101 South Veterans Parkway, P. O. Box 19255, Springfield, IL 62791-0255

Your Annual Benefit Statement has been prepared as of June 30, 2007 using the following information:

Social Security # XXX-XX-1234 Date of Birth 08/21/1944

00263A
ACTIVE JUDGEMEMPH
1234ANY STREI
ANY CITY, IL 66

Member Information

service. This does **not** include service forfeited by taking a refund, or any service credit in a reciprocal retirement system listed below.

Your total contributions are **\$122,333.44**. Your fiscal year 2007 contributions (July 1-June 30) were **\$15,211.00**. Your monthly rate of pay as of July 1, 2007, is **\$11,788.99**. Your final salary is used to compute your retirement benefits.

Retirement Benefits

Retirement benefits are based on service, final salary and age. Normal retirement is age 60 with ten years (120 months) of service. After 26 years (312 months) of service you may retire at age 55 without a reduction in your benefits. You will receive 5/12% credit for each month of service over 240 months to reduce any reduction normally assessed for retirement between age 55-60. If you continue working to normal retirement age, or 26 years of service, whichever comes first, your estimated

10/01/2007

Your monthly benefit earned as of **June 30, 2007**

You are eligible for an early retirement of **\$6,022.11** payable on **07/01/2007**

Disability

Temporary Total Disability

If you become totally disabled, your monthly benefit amount payable to the end of your term is ***\$5,947.66**. You will receive one month of service credit for each month you are receiving a temporary total disability benefit.

Total Permanent Disability

If you become permanently disabled, your monthly benefit amount is ***\$6,101.14**. This amount is payable for life so long as you remain permanently disabled.

Reciprocal Service

Using the reciprocal act with JRS, you may receive the following monthly benefit(s) at normal retirement date:
STATE EMPL RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF ILL 87.00 \$1,501.22

Death Benefits

Death benefits are payable to your spouse, children or named beneficiaries, as applicable. Lump sum death benefits are payable to your named beneficiaries if there are no eligible survivor(s) at your date of death. If you wish to change your JRS beneficiaries, a change of beneficiary form is printed in the enclosed *Panel*. JRS BENEFITS ARE SEPARATE FROM YOUR GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE. Group life beneficiaries are not included in this statement.

If you die while actively employed, your eligible

payable at age 50 or earlier if eligible children survive. Your eligible children will each receive a monthly benefit of **\$577.61***, up to a maximum children benefit of **\$4,049.18***.

If you die with no qualified survivors, your named beneficiary or estate will receive your total contributions of **\$122,333.44**.

Your current beneficiaries are:

1 - BENEFICIARY 1

2 - BENEFICIARY 2

* *This amount is reduced by any Workers Compensation benefits received.*

At a Glance

as of June 30, 2007

Member Information

Total Months of Service 130
Total Contributions **\$122,333.44**

Retirement

Estimated Retirement Benefit **\$6,222.33**
Payable on **10/01/2007**

Death

Surviving Spouse Benefit **\$4,023.18**
Surviving Child Benefit **\$577.61**
Surviving Children Maximum ... **\$4,049.18**



MEMBER'S NOMINATION OF BENEFICIARY(IES) FOR DEATH BENEFITS

This form is to be used to nominate the person or persons to receive any death benefit payable by the Judges' Retirement System of Illinois. A member desiring to change beneficiaries at a later date must complete a new Nomination of Beneficiary form. The form on file with JRS that has the most recent date, located next to the member's signature, will take precedence.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this form using ink or typewriter. You may nominate one person, as many as you wish, or your estate. Benefits will be paid on a survivor

basis in the numerical order you indicate. Two or more persons with the same order number will receive equal shares. When this beneficiary nomination is accepted by the Judges' Retirement System, an acknowledgment will be mailed to the current address on file with JRS.

NOTE! Persons nominated as beneficiaries without order numbers will be considered after persons nominated with order numbers. Two or more persons nominated without order numbers will receive equal shares.

EXAMPLE

Table with 4 columns: Order Number, Name, Address, Relationship. Rows include John A. Doe (Father), Jane B. Doe (Mother), David C. Doe (Brother), Nancy D. Doe (Sister), Mary E. Doe (Sister), and Frank F. Smith (None).

In the event the member dies while in state service, the benefit will be paid as follows:

- 1. All the money will be paid to John Doe.
2. If John Doe is not living when the member dies, all the money will be paid to Jane Doe.
3. If John and Jane, Doe are not living when the member dies, the money will be divided equally among David, Nancy, and Mary Doe.
4. If John, Jane, David, Nancy, and Mary Doe are not living when the member dies, all the money will be paid to Frank Smith.
5. If none of the nominated beneficiaries are living when the member dies, all of the money will be paid to the member's estate.

NOMINATED BENEFICIARIES

Form with columns: Order Number, Name, Address, Relationship. Includes horizontal lines for data entry.

This form must be witnessed by two people who are not named as beneficiaries.

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

Member's Social Security Number _____ Witness _____

Member's Address _____ Address _____

Witness _____

Address _____