

# POMPANO BEACH POLICE & FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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Dear Active Member:

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, a new Florida law (section 732.703) took effect that may affect your pension *if* you were divorced after you filed your designation of beneficiary with the pension office.

If you are still married to the same spouse as when you filed your beneficiary designation, the new law has no impact on you at this time. However, it will affect you if you divorce in the future.

The law has an immediate impact on you if ALL of the following are true:

- You were divorced *after* you filed your latest beneficiary designation; and
- You named your ex-spouse as your beneficiary (i.e., the person who will get the refund of your contributions to the pension fund, Chapter 175 share plan (firefighters only) or a death benefit if you die while still working); and
- You did not re-designate your beneficiary (or re-designate your ex-spouse) after you divorced; and
- There is not a court order requiring you to keep your ex-spouse as your beneficiary.

IF you can check all 4 of the boxes above, then *your designation of your ex-spouse as your beneficiary is no longer valid!*

**Please note that** If you die while still employed, no benefits will be paid to your ex-spouse.

The new law *invalidated* your pre-divorce designation of your ex-spouse and the pension fund cannot and will not pay any benefits to your ex-spouse.

If you want your ex-spouse to continue to be your beneficiary, then we'll have you fill out a new beneficiary designation again naming your ex-spouse. If you want to name someone else, you can do so as well.

If there's a court order from your divorce case requiring you to keep your ex-spouse as your beneficiary, just send us a certified copy of that order (you can get a certified copy from the clerk of the court that granted your divorce). You will need to do nothing more than that.

As you can see, this is important. The new law is in effect *now*. The pension office staff is ready to assist you. If you have any questions concerning your current beneficiary, do not hesitate to call us at 954-782-4161.