

Who's Your Beneficiary?

You've worked hard to accumulate your retirement savings. But if you die tomorrow, do you know who would receive the money in your TSP account? The law is clear about who is initially entitled to the funds, but it also gives you the option to tell us if you want your account paid out differently.

Most TSP participants take no action, allowing for the money to be paid to certain family members according to the statutory order of precedence. In the event of your death, your TSP account would be paid as follows:

1. To your spouse
2. If none, to your child or children equally, with the share due any deceased child divided equally among that child's descendants
3. If none, to your parents equally or to your surviving parent
4. If none, to the appointed executor or administrator of your estate
5. If none, to your next of kin who is entitled to your estate under the laws of the state in which you resided at the time of your death

If this order is appropriate for your situation, you do not need to take any action.

If you want your TSP account distributed in some other way, you should submit a Form TSP-3, *Designation of Beneficiary*. With the *Designation of Beneficiary*, you can designate one or more persons, a corporation, trust, legal entity, or your estate to receive your TSP account in the event of your death. It's important to know that the TSP will not honor neither a will nor a prenuptial agreement.

The easiest way to fill out the *Designation of Beneficiary* form is to use the online "wizard," which you'll

find by logging into My Account. The wizard will prompt you to complete the necessary information and when you're finished, it will generate a prefilled *Designation of Beneficiary* form for you to print. You can also download the form from our website and complete it manually. Whether you use the wizard or complete a *Designation of Beneficiary* form without it, sign each page of the form and have a witness sign each page. Submit the completed and signed form to the TSP directly (not to your agency or service).

If you don't remember whether you've submitted a Form TSP-3, or you're not sure who you named as your beneficiaries, there are several ways to check. Look at your most recent annual statement, check the online wizard, or call the ThriftLine at 1-877-968-3778. Even if you're certain your designated beneficiaries are current, check them periodically. Life is full of changes, so it's important to review your beneficiary designations to make sure that your TSP account will be awarded according to your wishes in the event of your death. You should also know that if you currently have a Form TSP-3 on file with us, we will continue to consider it valid unless you send us a new form requesting that we cancel or change it. This means that if you designated a spouse as your beneficiary on a *Designation of Beneficiary* form and later you and your spouse separated or divorced, that spouse would still receive your money unless you later submitted a new, revised form. This would be true even if that spouse had given up all rights to your account.

Remember, if you are fine with the statutory order of precedence, you don't need to do anything. But occasionally review your family situation to see if a *Designation of Beneficiary* becomes necessary. And

if you currently have a designation on file, be sure to periodically check your beneficiaries to see if you need to make any changes.

Want to have the ability to reset your password online?

Validating your email address or your mobile phone number is a good way to make sure the online password reset process goes smoothly when you need to use it. You can speak to a representative or log into My Account at tsp.gov to validate today and start using online password reset. If you haven't added an email or phone number to your account, consider adding and validating the information today.

Did you know that we have a new form to help with submitting a court order to the TSP?

The TSP-92, *TSP Retirement Benefits Court Order Division Package*, contains all of the forms you will need to divide a TSP account pursuant to a divorce, annulment, or legal separation.

Coming in September 2019

We will be adding more options for how you can withdraw money from your account. Visit the Bulletin Board at tsp.gov to learn more.