

# retiree newsletter

FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM • DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES • DIVISION OF RETIREMENT

## Your 2019 Schedule of Benefit Payments

Retirement benefits are payable on the last state business day of each month. If you use direct deposit, you will have your benefit payments available to you on the scheduled dates shown below for 2019. If you receive benefit payments through the mail, your check will be mailed two business days before the scheduled dates; however, we cannot guarantee that the check will arrive by the scheduled date.

If you receive your benefit payment by mail and you do not receive the payment by the **fifth business day of the next month**, notify the division toll free at 844-377-1888 or at 850-907-6500 if you are in the Tallahassee calling area. If you request a replacement check, the division will immediately

place a stop payment order on the original check, and that check will become **null and void**.

Do not attempt to cash the original check if you receive it after you have requested a replacement check. Your replacement check can be easily identified because the word "DUPLICATE" will be printed on the face of it. On average, it takes two weeks to complete the processing of a replacement check.

### 2019 Schedule of Benefit Payments

Thursday, January 31	Thursday, February 28	Friday, March 29
Tuesday, April 30	Friday, May 31	Friday, June 28
Wednesday, July 31	Friday, August 30	Monday, September 30
Thursday, October 31	Wednesday, November 27	Tuesday, December 31

## How To Read Your Form 1099-R

**Box 1: Gross distribution** – The total of the retirement benefits paid to you for the calendar year before deductions. If you are eligible for the Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) tax exclusion, your gross distribution is already reduced by that amount. Refer to your Retiree Annual Statement included with your Form 1099-R for additional information on how this amount was calculated.

**Box 2a: Taxable amount** – The taxable amount the division reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). If you retired effective August 1, 1986, or later and you made personal **after-tax contributions** to the Florida Retirement System (FRS), this box shows your taxable amount (Box 2a equals Box 1 minus Box 5). This amount is determined using the simplified method established by the IRS to determine the tax-exempt portion of your retirement benefits each year. Refer

to Publication 575 from the IRS's website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), for more information, or call toll free 800-829-1040.

**Box 4: Federal income tax withheld** – The total amount of federal income tax withheld from your benefits during 2018.

**Box 5: Employee contributions** – If you retired August 1, 1986, or later and made personal **after-tax contributions** to the FRS, this box includes the portion of the contributions you made and are allowed to claim for this tax year under the simplified method. **Please note: This box does not include any employee pre-tax contributions you may have paid.**

**Box 7: Distribution code(s)** – The type of benefit you received. Code descriptions are on the back of Form 1099R.

**Box 9b:** If you began receiving benefit payments during 2018, this is the total amount of personal after-tax contributions you made to the FRS.

CORRECTED (if checked)

PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and phone no.			1 Gross distribution \$		OMB No. 1545-0119 <b>2018</b> Form <b>1099-R</b>	Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.		
			2a Taxable amount \$					
			2b Taxable amount not determined <input type="checkbox"/>		Total distribution <input type="checkbox"/>			
PAYER'S TIN		RECIPIENT'S TIN		3 Capital gain (included in box 2a) \$		4 Federal income tax withheld \$		
RECIPIENT'S name			5 Employee contributions/ Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums \$		6 Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities \$		Copy B Report this income on your federal tax return. If this form shows federal income tax withheld in box 4, attach this copy to your return.  This information is being furnished to the IRS.	
Street address (including apt. no.)			7 Distribution code(s) IRA/SEP/SIMPLE <input type="checkbox"/>		8 Other %			
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code			9a Your percentage of total distribution %		9b Total employee contributions \$			
10 Amount allocable to IRR within 5 years \$		11 1st year of desig. Roth contrib.	FATCA filing requirement <input type="checkbox"/>	12 State tax withheld \$		13 State/Payer's state no.		
Account number (see instructions)			Date of payment		15 Local tax withheld \$		16 Name of locality \$	
					14 State distribution \$		17 Local distribution \$	

Form **1099-R** [www.irs.gov/Form1099R](http://www.irs.gov/Form1099R) Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

## Is Your Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Benefit Taxable?

The Division of Retirement received an IRS ruling that allows FRS retirees and surviving beneficiaries receiving HIS benefits to exclude all or part of their HIS benefits from their annual taxable income. To qualify, you must meet one of the following requirements:

- You have health insurance premiums deducted from your monthly FRS pension plan benefit; or
- You paid health insurance premiums to your former FRS employer who, in turn, reports the total of your health insurance premium payments to the division.

The tax exclusion is limited to the amount of your subsidy payments for the 2018 calendar year or the health insurance premiums deducted from your benefit or certified to the division by your former employer, whichever is less. Box 1 of your Form 1099R is already adjusted if you had excludable subsidy benefits.

**Note: Although Medicare coverage qualifies you to receive HIS payments, the IRS does not allow your Medicare premium payments to be used for the tax exclusion.**

## Do You Need to Adjust Your Tax Withholding?

You may change your tax withholding amount as needed by logging in to your [FRS Online account](#), selecting Account Information and then selecting Change Tax Withholding. You can calculate and submit changes to your federal income tax withholding up to three times a day. After you submit a change, a message will be displayed on the screen showing the effective date for your adjustment. You can also download the [Form W-4P](#) from the Forms Used by Retirees section of the [Retirees page](#) of the [division's website](#), or you can request a form from the division by dialing 844-377-1888 toll free or 850-907-6500 if you are in the Tallahassee calling area. All new retirees have their withholding status set to 'Married with Three Allowances' until they change their withholding through their FRS Online account or until they complete and return a Withholding Certificate for Pension Payments, Form W-4P.

## Your FRS Online Account Is Your Key to Tools and Information

The Retirees page of the division's website, [www.frs.myflorida.com](#), is your online portal to a wealth of useful tools and information. Logging in to your [FRS Online account](#) allows you to access and update information pertinent to your retirement, including the following:

- Updating your mailing address, email address, and telephone number;
- Viewing your most recent benefit payment information (benefit stub) and payment history;
- Printing pension verification letters (award letters);
- Viewing current tax withholding and other benefit deductions and making federal income tax withholding changes;
- Printing historical IRS Form 1099 R (copies are available back to tax year 2000);
- Setting up or changing your direct deposit;
- Selecting your delivery preference for the notification of your IRS Form 1099-R and other information from the division under Communication Preferences; and
- Accessing messages from the division in the Message Center of your online account.

For guidance on how to log in to your FRS Online account, you may view the FRS Quick Clip, "How to Log In to FRS Online," found on the Retirees page of the division's website, [frs.myflorida.com](#). For additional help, you may also call the division toll free at 844-377-1888 or at 850-907-6500 if you are in the Tallahassee calling area.

## Convenient Ways to Access Your FRS Online Account

1. Visit [rol.frs.state.fl.us](#), then select Log In from the list on the left side of the screen.
2. Visit [frs.myflorida.com](#) and choose FRS Online on the right side of the screen. FRS Online will open in a new window, which will land directly on the login page.
3. If you use the MyFRS.com website to access your FRS Online account, go to the Retiree page and select the link to FRS Online for Pension Plan members.

There will be login instructions on the website to help you access your FRS Online account, update your user name or password, or create a new account if you have not established your account. Call the division if you need further assistance.

### Remember

- Keep your username and password in a safe place.
- Choose security questions and answers you can remember.
- You are the only person that can edit your profile.
- The Division of Retirement is not responsible for delivery failures caused by an incorrect or out of date email address that you provide in your FRS Online account.

## When Disaster Strikes, Be Prepared with Direct Deposit!

Parts of Florida have seen devastation over the past few years during hurricane season. When natural disasters occur, you'll need immediate access to your retirement funds. To avoid a delay in receiving your monthly benefits when the Postal Service is unable to deliver your check, you can enroll in direct deposit and ensure your benefit is received on the last business day of every month.

Direct deposit is a safe and secure way to receive your monthly benefits and there is no risk of your check getting lost, stolen, or in times of disaster, having difficulty finding an open location to cash or deposit your check.

The easiest and safest way to enroll in direct deposit is by logging in to your [FRS Online account](#). The Direct Deposit Authorization screen can be found under Retiree Services. Direct deposit requests submitted online are generally processed within seven to 10 business days. The deposit to the newly authorized account will generally begin with the first monthly payment issued after the direct deposit authorization is completed.

**Note: Retirees who retired on or after July 1, 2000, are required by law to use direct deposit. Retirees who retired before July 2000 are strongly encouraged to use direct deposit.**



## Division Director Liz Stevens Moves On

Elizabeth "Liz" Stevens, who served as Director for the Division of Retirement for the past two and a half years, has left to take on a new role with another state agency. The seventh director in the division's history, Ms. Stevens served with great distinction. In these uncertain times where information security is not guaranteed, she made protecting our members' data a priority. A large part of Ms. Stevens' legacy will be the streamlining of many of the division's processes and the increased outreach to our active members in the Florida Retirement System (FRS).

"I am extremely proud of the work we do at the division and even more impressed by the people that I've been fortunate enough to call my work family for the past 12 years," Ms. Stevens said.

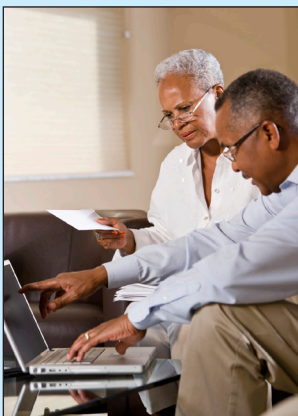
In her place, Assistant Director Shirley Beauford will serve as Acting Director. Ms. Beauford brings 28 years of experience from within the division, the last two of which she served as Assistant Director.

## Ask Before Returning to Work

Protect your retirement by making sure you know when you can work again for an FRS employer without affecting your retirement benefit, including the accumulated Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) benefits. A good rule of thumb is to avoid employment with any FRS employer for the first 12 months after your service retirement, or the month after you terminate your DROP participation. Months 1-6 require a complete service break to satisfy the FRS termination requirement. Employment with an FRS employer during months 7-12 requires you to suspend your FRS monthly pension payment (excluding retired law enforcement officers reemployed as school resource officers). The termination requirement and reemployment limitations apply even if you are reemployed by an FRS employer in a non-FRS covered position such as an adjunct professor, election poll worker, or other temporary employments.

If you would like to work again, you may work for a private employer, a Florida public employer that does not participate in the FRS, or a public employer in another state without affecting your retirement benefits.

If you have questions about termination or reemployment limitations, please call the division toll free at 844-377-1888 or at 850-907-6500 if you are in the Tallahassee calling area, or email [Retirement@dms.myflorida.com](mailto:Retirement@dms.myflorida.com). The [Ready. Set. Retire.](#) guide provides more information about termination, reemployment limitations, and renewed membership. This guide is also available in the [Retirement Guides](#) section of the [Publications](#) page of the division's [website](#).



## Changes in Your Insurance?

Please contact your insurance provider office (your former employer or insurance company) to change your coverage, cancel your policy, or receive assistance with insurance questions about claims, premium amounts, and refunds of overpaid premiums. Your insurance provider office is responsible for providing updated insurance premium deduction information to the division.

## Proactively Protecting Your Privacy

As we continue to progress into the electronic age, we find ourselves faced with the new challenge of guarding against identity theft and internet fraud. Identity theft is the fraudulent appropriation and use of someone's personal data in a way that involves fraud or deception, typically for economic gain. Internet fraud is any type of fraudulent scheme that uses one or more components of the internet, such as email or websites, to present fraudulent solicitations or to conduct fraudulent transactions. Fortunately, you can overcome these threats by taking these measures to protect yourself:

- Destroy or secure banking and credit card statements.
- Sign your credit cards with "Photo ID Required" in lieu of your name.
- Regularly check financial records for unfamiliar transactions.
- When ordering checks, have your initials printed on them in lieu of your full name so that a thief will not know how to sign them.
- Minimize the amount of personal information in your purse or wallet, and do not carry your Social Security or Medicare card on you.
- Do not use your Social Security number as a permanent username or login ID for internet access to any account.
- Use websites with addresses that start with "https:" to ensure that you are visiting a secure site.
- Use caution when giving out valuable personal data online, such as your Social Security number, credit card number(s) or passwords.
- Change your login credentials for any account when you have determined that your online account has been compromised.



Be proactive by signing up for the National Do Not Call Registry at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Adding your name to this registry will limit your contact information from being sold or provided to most telemarketers. Additionally, if you are concerned about financial information being stolen from your mailbox, you can avoid receiving pre-approved credit card offers. The national credit bureaus offer a toll-free number that enables consumers to opt out of all pre-approved credit offers. Call 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688) for more information.

## Is Your Contact Information Current?

If your benefit payments are mailed, your benefits may be delayed or suspended if your mail is returned to the division, so make sure you keep your address up to date. The division does not forward benefit payments, IRS tax Form 1099-R, or other mail containing sensitive information. If your mail is returned to the division, your benefits may be delayed or suspended. To update your mailing address in FRS Online, log in to your account, and select Address Change.

If you have internet access but prefer not to change your address online, you may download and print [Form ADDCH- 1, FRS Pension Plan Address Change Request for Those Receiving a Monthly Benefit](#) from the Retirees page of the division's website, or you may contact the division. It is also important to keep your email address current so that the division can communicate pertinent information like publication updates, benefit and tax information, and the availability of electronic delivery items, such as IRS Form 1099-R during tax season. You can update your email address by logging in to FRS Online and going to the Profile Settings page of your account.

The division is not responsible for delivery failures caused by incorrect or out-of-date email addresses in your FRS Online account.

### Contact Us

Mailing Address:  
Division of Retirement  
P.O. Box 9000  
Tallahassee, FL 32315-9000

Email: [retirement@dms.myflorida.com](mailto:retirement@dms.myflorida.com)

Physical Address:  
1317 Winewood Blvd, Building 8  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1560  
Telephone: 850-907-6500 (in the Tallahassee calling area)  
toll free 844-377-1888

Email: [Retirement@dms.myflorida.com](mailto:Retirement@dms.myflorida.com)