1. Are lump sum death benefits taxed?

The taxable portion of the Basic Death Benefit, Retired Death Benefit, Option 1 balance, and Temporary Annuity balance is subject to a mandatory 20 percent federal tax withholding rate.

The taxable portion of the lump sum death benefit can be rolled over to an individual retirement account (IRA) to avoid federal income tax withholding. Spouses can rollover to a traditional IRA and non-spouse beneficiaries can roll over to an inherited IRA.

If you received a benefit, we'll mail you a Form 1099R at the beginning of the year that lists the amount you were paid in the previous tax year. You're responsible for reporting the benefit to the IRS with your personal income taxes.

1. When will the beneficiary receive payment of the lump sum death benefit?

Payment is usually issued within 8 to 12 weeks after we receive all the required documents, including the final payroll form from the member's employer and the beneficiary's completed death claim application.

1. When will I get my first retirement check?

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| That depends on your retirement date and when your final documents are received and processed by CalPERS. The first payment can take up to 30-45 calendar days from your retirement date or the date your application is received, whichever is later. Because each case is different, [contact us](https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/contact) to know exactly when your first check will be sent.   1. When is the earliest I can retire?   For most people, the earliest you can retire is age 50. If you became a member on or after January 1, 2013, you must be age 52.   1. What is the Social Security reduction? |
| The Social Security reduction applies if you participate in Social Security as well as CalPERS. That means you didn't make retirement contributions on the first $133.33 of your monthly earnings. Therefore, when computing your estimate, you must reduce your final compensation by $133.33.   1. What is my retirement formula?   The easiest way to find your current formula is to log in to your [my|CalPERS](https://my.calpers.ca.gov/) account. Your retirement formula is displayed on the homepage. If you have worked for more than one employer, go to the Retirement Summary page in my|CalPERS to view more employment formulas at each employer. You can also find it on your most recent Annual Member Statement (also on my|CalPERS) or by asking your employer.   1. Is my disability retirement benefit tax free?   For tax reporting purposes, the IRS requires us to report disability retirements the same as service retirements. Only Industrial Death benefits and Industrial Disability Retirement benefits with no excess income taxable percentage qualify for the Internal Revenue Code tax benefit (IRC section 104(a)(1)).   1. If I plan to retire in less than five years, which class should I take?   The Planning Your Retirement class is for members who are nearing retirement and want to learn about the process of retiring. It covers service credit, options at retirement, how to choose your retirement date, the retirement application process, and more.   1. If I plan to continue to work after age 65, when do I need to enroll in Medicare?   If you're entitled to premium-free Medicare Part A, we suggest you enroll before your 65th birthday. You may defer enrollment in Medicare Part B if you're covered by an employer group health plan (yours or your spouse's). When you retire, or if you lose coverage under the employer group health coverage, immediately enroll in Medicare Part B and notify CalPERS to transition into a CalPERS Medicare health plan.   1. Can my attorney-in-fact access my myCalPERS account online?   For security reasons, only CalPERS members are allowed to access their [myCalPERS](https://my.calpers.ca.gov/) accounts online. |