

If your SSA award is retroactive, you may be required to repay SERS the full amount of your award. This lump sum payment must be made from your initial SSA payment. Future increases in Social Security disability benefits will not affect your SERS benefit.

If you are receiving any other SSA benefits, contact SERS immediately. Certain SSA benefits may lead to a larger repayment to SERS. When you reach your full Social Security retirement age, your SERS disability payment will be reduced by the amount of your Social Security pension benefit.

Investigation of Disability Claims

After you receive your first disability payment, the Disability Section may contact you by mail to obtain additional information that was not included on your benefit application.

Every January and July a new medical form will be sent to you which must be completed by your physician. An exam is not required if you have seen your physician within the last two months, however the form must be completed and returned to SERS.

Included with the medical form is a Certification of Disability form, and a form certifying that you have not earned more than the calendar quarterly limitation while receiving your SERS disability benefit.

During your disability, you may be contacted regarding your disability, current medical treatment, and other daily activities. You may also be asked to undergo an independent medical examination. Your cooperation is vital to this disability investigation process. Failure

to cooperate may result in the termination of your temporary disability benefit.

Working While Disabled

You can work outside of state government and earn up to the calendar quarterly limitation without disrupting your disability benefit.

It is important to remember that you cannot earn more than the calendar quarterly limitation, nor return to work for the State in any capacity.

If you exceed the calendar quarterly limitation, an overpayment of disability benefits will result, requiring you to repay these benefits. Call the Disability Section at 217-785-7318 if you have questions or need assistance with any aspect of your disability benefit.

SERS Recovery Rights

Once the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission makes its final determination on a disputed claim, SERS will calculate your benefit to determine if temporary benefits must be repaid. Any member who accepts a temporary benefit acknowledges and authorizes the recovery rights of SERS.

Important!

If your injury was caused by a third party (i.e. motorist, contractor, etc.) and you collect money from that party, SERS is entitled to a reimbursement for sums paid to you in occupational disability benefits and service contributions.

Temporary Disability Benefits

*If You Have Been Denied
Benefits Under the
Workers' Compensation Act*



TIER 1

*for members hired
before January 1, 2011*

State Employees' Retirement System of Illinois
2101 South Veterans Parkway • P. O. Box 19255
Springfield, IL 62794-9255 217-785-7444

The SERS temporary disability benefit is available in disputed Workers' Compensation cases when your claim for benefits under the Workers Compensation Act have been formally denied and an appeal has been filed with the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission.

After you receive your first disability check, all future checks are mailed on the 19th of the month, paying you for the previous month. If the 19th falls on the weekend or a state holiday, your check will be mailed on the last working day before the 19th.

You May be Eligible for the SERS Temporary Disability Benefit if:

- You have at least 18 months of creditable service with SERS, Teachers' or State Universities Retirement Systems.
- You file an application within 12 months of the date a disability results in the loss of pay.
- You filed an appeal with the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission.
- You submitted the required forms to SERS.
- You have not received, nor had a right to receive, any compensation for at least 30 days.
- SERS finds you to be disabled from performing your assigned job duties.

• OR •

If your Workers' Compensation benefit is terminated, you may be eligible for the SERS temporary disability benefit if:

- You have at least 18 months of credited service with SERS, Teachers' or State Universities Retirement Systems.
- You submitted the required forms to SERS.
- You filed an appeal with the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, and requested an emergency hearing through the Workers' Compensation Commissions' 19B1 process.
- You served a 150-day waiting period or received a decision from the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission on your emergency hearing.
- SERS finds you to be disabled from performing your assigned job duties.

When Payments Begin & End

Your benefit will begin on the 31st day from the date you last received, or had a right to receive, any compensation if your Workers' Compensation claim was denied.

After your Workers' Compensation benefit is terminated, the temporary disability benefit will begin the day following termination of your Workers' Compensation benefits and after the 150-day waiting period, unless a decision has been made on your 19B1 application. Disability benefits for all periods of disability are payable for a total period of time equal to one-half of credited service not earned while on disability, until death, or one of the following events occur:

- Your disability ends.
- You resume gainful employment.

- You reach age 65. (If your disability began after age 60, benefits are payable for five years and are subject to the one-half service credit limitation.)
- A payment is made after determining the state's liability under the Workers' Compensation Act or the Workers' Occupational Diseases Act.
- A final determination is made on the member's claim by the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission.

IT IS A MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY SERS IMMEDIATELY IF YOU RESUME GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT OR RECEIVE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS.

Disability and Social Security

You may be eligible for Social Security disability benefits if your disability lasts more than twelve months.

SERS contracts with a firm specializing in assisting members through the Social Security disability application process. If your case is accepted by this firm, they will contact you to begin the application process.

If your case is not accepted, and you remain disabled for more than twelve months, you must apply directly to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for disability benefits. SERS will give you specific directions about the filing process. While your disability claim is reviewed by the SSA, you receive your full SERS benefit.