

## *Investigation of Disability Claims*

After you receive your first disability payment, the Disability Section may contact you by mail to obtain any 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 certifying that you have not earned more than the calendar quarterly earnings 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.

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.

## *Working While Disabled*

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

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

If you exceed the calendar quarterly earnings 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.

### *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.***

# *Occupational Disability Benefits*



## **TIER 2**

*for members hired  
after December 31, 2010*



*The SERS Disability Section will assist you with your disability claim and process your application as fast as possible, because we do not want the disability application process to create any additional burdens on you.*

*The processing time depends on how quickly you and your agency return the necessary forms to us. After you receive your first disability check, all future checks are mailed at the end of the month.*

### *To Become Eligible for Occupational Disability Benefits, the Employee Must Meet the Following Conditions:*

1. You must be a member of SERS.
2. You must file a claim with the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) **OR** the Risk Management Division of the Department of Central Management Services. They will determine if your disability is payable under the Workers' Compensation Act.
3. You must have a medical report submitted to our office by a licensed and practicing physician.
4. You must file your application with the Claims division of SERS within 12 months following your removal from the payroll, or within 12 months after the WCC rules

on your application. If the application is not received within this time, your application may be denied.

5. SERS must find you to be disabled from performing your assigned job duties.

### *Occupational Disability Benefits Terminate When One of the Following Events Occur:*

1. Your disability has ceased.
2. You resume gainful employment.
3. Five years have passed since the beginning of your benefit—if your benefit began after you became age 60.
4. You become age 65—if your benefit began before age 60.
5. The Total Temporary disability benefit you receive from Workers' Compensation stops.
6. You fail to cooperate with SERS.

To continue receiving occupation disability benefits from SERS beyond this time, you must receive a settlement/award from the WCC showing a permanent condition which prevents you from returning to work.

### *Disability and Workers' Compensation Benefits*

SERS occupational disability benefits may be payable to you while you receive Workers' Compensation benefits. SERS occupational disability benefits are reduced by the benefit amount that you receive under the Workers' Compensation Act. If your Workers' Compensation benefits cease, your SERS occupational disability benefits will also cease.

If you continue to be disabled and once again qualify for Workers' Compensation benefits, SERS occupational disability benefits would also be payable to you. This includes Workers' Compensation Total Temporary disability benefits, or a Settlement/Award through the WCC.

If you stop receiving Workers' Compensation and SERS occupational disability benefits, and you have a pending Claim for Benefits with the WCC, refer to the SERS Handbook under the section "Temporary Disability Benefits."



***IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY SERS IMMEDIATELY IF YOU RESUME GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT***