

Ordinary Disability Retirement

Who is eligible for Ordinary Disability Retirement (ODR)?

ERS members may be eligible for Ordinary Disability if they:

- Have 15 years of service in ERS
- Are physically or mentally incapacitated from performing the duties of their Milwaukee County position not as the result of a work-related accident
- The incapacity is total and permanent
- Approved by the Medical Board and the Pension Board

What is the Ordinary Disability Retirement benefit?

- The Ordinary Disability benefit is calculated using the same formula as a normal pension with a minimum benefit of 25% of the member's final average salary.

How long will I receive the Ordinary Disability Retirement benefit?

- If approved, the Ordinary Disability benefit will continue for as long as you are disabled.

How do I apply for Ordinary Disability Retirement?

- Contact the ERS office at (414) 278-4207.
- If you are eligible, ERS will send you application forms and an estimate of disability benefits.
- You will return the completed forms to ERS to begin the process.

What is the process?

- ERS will collect relevant medical information from your physician(s)
- This information is sent to the ERS Medical Board.
- The ERS Medical Board will contact you to schedule medical examinations with three different physicians.
- After the examinations are completed, the Medical Board prepares a report for the Pension Board with a recommendation to either approve or deny Ordinary Disability Retirement.
- The Pension Board will either approve or deny your Ordinary Disability application.
- The Pension Board will notify you of their decision in writing.

If my Ordinary Disability Retirement application is approved, what do I do next?

- ERS will schedule an appointment for you to sign the necessary paperwork for Ordinary Disability, Health Insurance and Life Insurance. Benefits will be effective on either the date of application or the last date on the payroll.

Will my disability be reevaluated in the future?

- The Pension Board may require a medical review to determine continued disability on a periodic basis.
- You will be notified in writing when you are to undergo a medical review.

If my Ordinary Disability application is denied, what are my options?

- If your application is denied, ERS will provide information on your appeal rights
- You may also reapply for Ordinary Disability Retirement after waiting one year from the date of denial by the Pension Board.

What if my disability is the result of a work-related accident?

- If you think your disability is solely the result of a work-related accident, contact ERS and ask to discuss an Accidental Disability application.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ***Ordinary Disability Retirement is not a temporary income replacement program***
- **Individuals on Ordinary Disability Retirement:**
 - o May have the disability benefit offset for any Worker's Compensation payment for the same disability.
 - o May be subject to a limit on outside earnings.
 - o Ordinary Disability Retirement benefits are taxable.
 - o ERS recommends that you contact a tax advisor for guidance.

How can I contact ERS?

In Milwaukee

Telephone: 414-278-4207

Outside Milwaukee

Toll free: 877-652-6377
(877 ML CO ERS)

Website:

Internet

www.county.milwaukee.gov/retirement

Intranet:

www.county.milwaukee.gov/ContactUs

Where is ERS located?

Employees' Retirement System

Courthouse Room 210

901 N. 9th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53233

Disclaimer

This brochure highlights certain aspects of your ERS benefits. In an effort to keep the brochure's language as clear and non-technical as possible, the information provided is only a brief overview of your benefits.

For a more detailed description of our benefits, including limitations on the exclusions, please consult the County Ordinances and Pension Board Rules. (General Ordinances of County of Milwaukee/Ord. Section 201.24 and Appendix B).

You should also consult any Collective Bargaining Agreements ("CBA") applicable to your position.

The information contained in this brochure is current through 10/9/2009.

Subsequent changes to Ordinances, Rules or CBA or later determined interpretations of Ordinances or Rules may affect the information in this brochure.

In case of any ambiguity or contradiction between the information in this brochure and the Ordinances and Rules, the Ordinances and Rules will govern.

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