

LIAISON MEMORANDUM
NUMBER 16-27

To: Agency Liaison Officers

From: Cindy Rougeou
Executive Director

Re: Survivor Benefits – Definition of a Minor Child

Date: October 11, 2016

When a LASERS member passes away, survivor benefits might be payable to his/her spouse and/or minor children. The family is instructed to contact the agency to initiate the survivor benefit application process. It is important that all possible dependents are listed on the application. This is a reminder that the LASERS definition of a minor child differs from the traditional definition of a minor.

For the purpose of granting survivor benefits, **a minor child is an unmarried child under age 18 or an unmarried full-time student under age 23.** The qualified child must also meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for minor child survivor benefits:

- Child of a marriage of a member
- Biological child of a female member
- Child of a male member acknowledged under Louisiana law
- Legally adopted child of a member

Stepchildren of members are not considered eligible minor children. Benefits for minors under age 18 are paid in care of the legal guardian under the minor's Social Security number. Minor children over the age of 18 who are not disabled, if still eligible, will be paid directly.

Unmarried minor children age 18 to 23 must be enrolled as full-time students to qualify for survivor benefits. A full-time student must be enrolled in a high school, vocational-technical school, GED program, college or university and must attend at least 80 percent of enrolled classes to remain eligible for monthly benefits. Students must prove twice a semester that they are enrolled as full-time students.

Please refer to the [Member's Guide to Retirement](#) for additional information on survivor benefits.

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Cindy Rougeou, Executive Director