

Summary sheet

Order of beneficiaries

General principle

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The pension regulations provide information about which people are entitled to the lump-sum death benefit and under what circumstances. The wording of the pension regulations in force at the time of death is legally authoritative. It is possible to change the general order of beneficiaries as it applies to lump-sum death benefits in accordance with the pension regulations. An individual order of beneficiaries is permitted up to the time of full retirement.

What is the general order of beneficiaries under the regulations?

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Persons are entitled to the lump-sum death benefit in the following groups:

- a) the spouse;
if none:
- b) the children eligible for an orphan's pension; if none:
- c) – natural persons supported to a significant degree by the deceased; or
– the person who had been in a life partnership with the deceased or is responsible for supporting one or more joint children; if none:
- d) the children not eligible for an orphan's pension; if none:
- e) the parents; if none:
- f) the siblings and half-siblings; if none:
- g) any other legal heirs, with the exception of the canton and commune.

If there are no eligible persons under a) and c), the children under b) and d) are combined into a single group.

If there is more than one survivor in the same group, the lump-sum death benefit is paid out to the members of the group in equal shares.

In the case of eligible persons under g), half the lump-sum death benefit is paid out.

Who is entitled to benefits?

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3.1 Spouse

The spouse is the person to whom the insured was married at the time of death (and not on the date when the beneficiary status changed). The registered partnership is treated the same as a marriage.

3.2 Children

The children of the insured who are eligible for a pension are:

- the biological children of the deceased who are entitled to an OASI/DI pension,
- the children entitled to an OASI/DI pension and foster children who were supported in full or in part by the deceased,
- the stepchildren who were supported in full or in part by the deceased.

Children up to the age of 18 or 20 (as set out in the occupational benefits plan) are eligible for a pension. A child's entitlement to a pension continues past the final age if the child is in education or training or has a level of disability of at least 70%, but at the latest until they reach the age of 25.

Any children not included in the above categories are deemed ineligible for a pension.

3.3 Life partner

The life partner is the life partner at the time of the insured's death. This does not need to be reported during the insured's lifetime.

A life partnership exists if, at the time of death:

- a) both partners are unmarried and not related to each other, and
- b) they are not registered in accordance with Federal Act on the Registered Partnership between Same-Sex Couples (PartG) of June 18, 2004, and
- c) both life partners lived in a domestic partnership in the same household and domicile without interruption for five years immediately prior to the death of the insured, if and for as long as the health situation allowed this;

or the insured supported the surviving life partner to a significant degree;
or the surviving life partner is required to pay support for one or more joint children.

A life partnership is also possible for same-sex couples.

3.4 Natural persons supported to a significant degree by the insured

Supported persons do not need to be reported during the insured's lifetime. The concept of support applies if the beneficiaries depend economically on the insured; in other words, if the insured's death results in significant restrictions of the accustomed lifestyle. However, some restrictions in the standard of living are deemed to be reasonable. A statutory obligation to provide support is not required.

Significant support generally refers to situations where an insured regularly pays for at least half of the beneficiary's living expenses. Such support must be in effect at the time of death or have been provided during the most recent years prior to the death.

3.5 Parents

The father and/or mother are the parents of the deceased.

3.6 Siblings

The siblings also include half-siblings.

3.7 Other legal heirs

Other legal heirs are all other persons who by law stand to inherit, with the exception of the canton and commune.

What needs to be considered when drawing up an individual order of beneficiaries?

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The insured can deviate from the regulatory order of beneficiaries by stipulating the entitlements of individual persons listed in letters a) to f) as percentages of the lump-sum death benefit. Persons in groups d) to f) can be included as beneficiaries if there are no persons in group c). Persons in groups d) to f) can also be included as beneficiaries together with persons in group a) and b). Persons in group c) can only be beneficiaries together with groups a) and b).

The following general rule applies: If there is no person from group c) – that is, no life partner and no person(s) who support you to a significant degree or who are responsible for supporting one or more joint children – you are free to divide the lump-sum death benefit between the remaining groups.

If there are persons in group c), persons in groups d) to f) cannot be included as beneficiaries.

Entitlements must be stipulated as a percentage of the lump-sum death benefit and must amount to 100% in total. The individual order of beneficiaries is also applicable in the case of any insured annuity certain.

If there are no eligible persons under a) to f), the lump-sum death benefit is paid in equal parts to the other legal heirs in g). An individual order of beneficiaries cannot be specified for the other legal heirs.

The individual order of beneficiaries must be submitted to the Foundation during the insured's lifetime via the specified notification system. The designated beneficiaries must be specified by name, together with all required details.

The individual order of beneficiaries is valid as of the date on which the form is received by the Foundation.

If a particular designated beneficiary no longer exists, their share will be distributed to the other individual beneficiaries in proportion to their entitlements.

If all persons included in the individual order of beneficiaries no longer exist, the regulatory order of beneficiaries will apply.

The insured may amend or revoke the individual order of beneficiaries at any time by submitting the appropriate form.

Personal circumstances, as well as the legal and regulatory provisions at the time of death, are the determining factors when assessing the individual order of beneficiaries.

You are married or live in a registered partnership

Are there any other people whose financial support you are significantly responsible for or who are responsible for supporting your joint children (as per C)?

Yes

No

Individual designations can be made for:

A	• Spouse • Registered partnership	X%
B	• Children eligible for a pension	X%
C	• Natural persons who received significant support from the insured • Natural person who is responsible for supporting one or more joint children	X%
D	• Children who are not eligible for a pension	–
E	• Parents	–
F	• Siblings and half-siblings	–

You can decide what percentage you would like to allocate to each of the people in Categories A, B, and C. The total sum must amount to 100%.

Individual designations can be made for:

A	• Spouse • Registered partnership	X%
B	• Children eligible for a pension	X%
C	• Natural persons who received significant support from the insured • Natural person who is responsible for supporting one or more joint children	–
D	• Children who are not eligible for a pension	X%
E	• Parents	X%
F	• Siblings and half-siblings	X%

You can decide what percentage you would like to allocate to each of the people in Categories A, B, D, E, and F. The total sum must amount to 100%.

You are not married and do not live in a registered partnership

Do you have a life partner? Are there any other people whose financial support you are significantly responsible for or who are responsible for supporting your joint children (as per C)?

Yes

No

Individual designations can be made for:

A	• Spouse • Registered partnership	–
B	• Children eligible for a pension	X%
C	• Life partner • Natural persons who received significant support from the insured • Natural person who is responsible for supporting one or more joint children	X%
D	• Children who are not eligible for a pension	–
E	• Parents	–
F	• Siblings and half-siblings	–

You can decide what percentage you would like to allocate to each of the people in Categories B and C. The total sum must amount to 100%.

Individual designations can be made for:

A	• Spouse • Registered partnership	–
B	• Children eligible for a pension	X%
C	• Life partner • Natural persons who received significant support from the insured • Natural person who is responsible for supporting one or more joint children	–
D	• Children who are not eligible for a pension	X%
E	• Parents	X%
F	• Siblings and half-siblings	X%

You can decide what percentage you would like to allocate to each of the people in Categories B, D, E, and F. The total sum must amount to 100%.