



TCERA RETIREE REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION

Purpose of the Form: Use this form to suspend your retirement and reinstate as an active TCERA member under Gov. Code Section 31680.4.

Instructions:

- Retiree – Complete Section 1, sign and give to your new employer with a physician’s certification.
- Employer – Complete Section 2, and send all documents to the Retirement office.

To be Eligible:

- You must be receiving a service retirement benefit from TCERA, and
- Your retirement benefit cannot be a disability benefit, and
- You must have an offer of a job from one of TCERA’s participating employers, and
- Your new job must qualify for membership in TCERA.

Section 1 – To be completed by the Retiree		
<p>I hereby apply for reinstatement as an active member of the Tulare County Employees’ Retirement Association. I certify I am not incapacitated for the duties of the new job. I have attached a certification from a physician licensed by the Medical Board of California or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California confirming that I am not incapacitated for the duties of the new job as described in the employer’s job description. I understand that upon approval of this application by the Board of Retirement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My monthly retirement benefit will stop <u>effective on the date of my re-employment</u>, and I will return to TCERA any benefits I received to which I am not entitled, and 2. I will begin to make contributions into the system and my contributions will be based on my present age and current tier, effective with the first pay period of my reemployment. 		
Full Name	Last four of SS #	Employee #
Member Signature		Date - mm/dd/year

Section 2 – To be completed by the Department or Special District	
<p>I request the above-named applicant be reinstated to active membership in TCERA. I certify that a job has been offered to the applicant as indicated below.</p>	
Job Title	Re-Hire Date mm/dd/year
Employer	Department
Appointing Authority Name	Appointing Authority Title
Appointing Authority Signature	Date - mm/dd/year

Section 3 – To be completed by the Retirement Office			
Retirement Board Action: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied Date: _____	Retirement Administrator Signature	Date - mm/dd/year	
	Date of Membership – mm/dd/year	Tier	New Age at Entry
<p>NOTE: TCERA reserves the right to require a court order if all or part of the retiree’s present benefit is being paid to another person under a child support order or court order, including domestic relations order.</p>			

TCERA RETIREE REINSTATEMENT – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility	
Q	What is reinstatement?
A	Reinstatement allows a TCERA retiree to return to work, earn additional service credit and re-retire later.
Q	Who is Eligible?
A	Anyone who is a retired member and not retired due to disability, <i>provided</i> they are medically able to perform the job.
The Process	
Q	How do I return to work?
A	First, you apply for a job with either Tulare County or one of the Special Districts that participate in the system. For this law to affect you, the job must be one that is normally covered by the system (i.e., permanent and not less than 20 hours per week).
	If you are offered the job, you will fill out a Retiree Reinstatement Application. On the form, you will certify you are medically capable of performing the duties of the job, provide a physician's certification to that effect, and certify that you understand your retirement benefit will be stopped while you are employed. You will give the documents to your prospective employer. The required documents must be returned to the Retirement office for Board of Retirement approval.
Q	Where do I get one of these application forms?
A	The form is available on TCERA's website www.tcera.org or you can request one by calling TCERA.
Q	What happens after the Board of Retirement approves this application?
A	TCERA will stop your retirement benefit. You will start making contributions in to the pension system again, and you will earn additional service credit.
Q	What if I forgot to file the application and I am already on the job?
A	If the application is filed late, but it is approved, you will need to repay the Retirement system for any pension checks you received and should not have. We'll also collect any contributions which should have been paid but were not.
Once You Are Reemployed	
Q	How will my contributions be computed?
A	We will use your present age as your "Age at Entry".
Q	What retirement category (Tier) will I be placed in?
A	You will be placed in the current retirement tier as if you were a new member.
Q	Once I'm back on payroll, may I purchase any prior service or redeposit any amounts I may have withdrawn before my original retirement?
A	You can only purchase service time that occurred after your original retirement date. This could be an unpaid personal medical leave of absence taken after your return to work. You may not purchase time prior to your original retirement date.
When You Re-Retire	
Q	What happens when I decide to retire again?
A	You'll get two benefits added together. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The first benefit will be the one you were receiving from your first retirement, plus any cost of living increases (COLA) that may have been granted to other retirees in the same tier while you were re-employed.2) The second benefit will be computed using your current age and the service and salary you earned after you came back to work.

Q I retired originally under an early retirement incentive program (the “Golden Handshake”, Government Code §31641.04). Does that affect how much I get when I re-retire?

A Yes. If you retired under an early retirement arrangement, you will forfeit the part of your pension that was due to this arrangement. For example, if you received two extra years of service credit by taking a “Golden Handshake,” offer, those two extra years would be forfeited in figuring your pension when you retire again.

Q Can I change the Option I selected when I retired the first time?

A Your original retirement benefit cannot be changed as to Option selected.

Q What about the second benefit I receive because of my extra service?

A You can choose any Option for your second retirement benefit.

Q Can I take a refund of my account?

A No.

Disability Benefits

Q What if I become disabled while I’m re-employed?

A Eligibility will be based on the service you earned since your return to work. We cannot use your previous service to qualify you for a disability benefit. If your disability benefit is approved, it will be computed based on your salary and service since return to work, and paid along with your original retirement benefit, the same as described above.

Death Benefits

Q What happens if I should die while I’m re-employed?

A We’ll pay any death benefit due based on your added service just the same as any other member who dies in active service. Any eligible continuance for the earlier retirement will be paid based on the retirement option you selected at the time of that prior retirement.

Health Insurance

Q What happens to my health insurance and/or Medicare coverage or premiums if I return to work?

A You will need to contact the agency administering your insurance coverage for health insurance and Medicare coverage questions. TCERA does not administer any health benefits.

Special Cases

Q I’m a widow/widower receiving two pensions. One is a continuation of my spouse’s pension and the other is because of my own service record. How will returning to work affect my two pensions?

A Only the pension paid because of your own employment is stopped when you return to work. The pension you are receiving from your spouse’s record will continue to you even while you are back to work.

Q Part of my monthly pension check is being sent to someone other than me. How will my return to work affect this part of my pension?

A The law provides that your pension stops when you again become a contributing member of the pension system. This means that even the part of your pension paid to someone else will stop. Because this may result in an action contrary to what a divorce order or family support order intended, you will need to seek guidance from the court regarding your return to work. We may require an acceptable court order providing direction regarding your pension before approval of your return to work application is granted. In no event can TCERA pay out more in benefits than would be required if the pension split had not occurred. (Note: Ex-spouse pension accounts that were the result of a community property split prior to retirement are not affected by a return to work.)

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