



Agenda Item 8d

August 20, 2014

ITEM NAME: Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Application for Death Benefits Payable on Account of Catherine Atkinson by JAMES C. ATKINSON, DANIEL W. ATKINSON, and AMANDA S. SCHMITT, Respondents, and CHARLENE MOTA, Respondent.

PROGRAM: Benefit Services Division

ITEM TYPE: Action

PARTIES' POSITIONS

Staff argues that the Board of Administration should adopt the Proposed Decision.

Respondents James C. Atkinson, Daniel W. Atkinson and Amanda S. Schmitt argue that the Board of Administration should decline to adopt the Proposed Decision.

Respondent Charlene Mota argues that the Board of Administration should adopt the Proposed Decision.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is not a specific product of either the Strategic or Annual Plans. The determination of administrative appeals is a power reserved to the Board of Administration.

PROCEDURAL SUMMARY

Catherine Atkinson (Decedent) died on July 13, 2012, at the age of 55, with 15 years of service credit. There was no valid beneficiary designation in place at the time of her death.

Respondent Charlene Mota submitted an application for Active Member/Non-Member Survivor Benefits on September 10, 2012, listing herself as Decedent's sister. Respondent James C. Atkinson submitted an application for Active Member/Non Member Survivor Benefits on September 26, 2012, listing himself as Decedent's son. Respondent Daniel W. Atkinson submitted an application for Active Member/Non-Member Survivor Benefits on October 1, 2012, listing himself as Decedent's son. Respondent Amanda S. Schmitt submitted an application for Active Member/Non Member Survivor Benefits on October 22, 2012, listing herself as Decedent's daughter.

CalPERS determined that there was sufficient evidence of intent by Decedent to designate Respondent Charlene Mota as beneficiary of her CalPERS Benefits. Respondents James C. Atkinson, Daniel W. Atkinson and Amanda S. Schmitt appealed this determination and the matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings on March 17, 2014. A Proposed Decision was issued on May 22, 2014, affirming CalPERS' determination.

ALTERNATIVES

- A. For use if the Board decides to adopt the Proposed Decision as its own Decision:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System hereby adopts as its own Decision the Proposed Decision dated May 22, 2014, concerning the appeals of James C. Atkinson, Daniel W. Atkinson and Amanda S. Schmitt regarding death benefits payable on account of Catherine Atkinson; RESOLVED FURTHER that this Board Decision shall be effective 30 days following mailing of the Decision.

- B. For use if the Board decides not to adopt the Proposed Decision, and to decide the case upon the record:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision dated May 22, 2014, concerning the appeals of James C. Atkinson, Daniel W. Atkinson and Amanda S. Schmitt regarding death benefits payable on account of Catherine Atkinson, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision and determines to decide the matter itself, based upon the record produced before the Administrative Law Judge and such additional evidence and arguments that are presented by the parties and accepted by the Board; RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board's Decision shall be made after notice is given to all parties.

- C. For use if the Board decides to remand the matter back to the Office of Administrative Hearings for the taking of further evidence:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, after consideration of the Proposed Decision dated May 22, 2014, concerning the appeals of James C. Atkinson, Daniel W. Atkinson and Amanda S. Schmitt regarding death benefits payable on account of Catherine Atkinson, hereby rejects the Proposed Decision and refers the matter back to the Administrative Law Judge for the taking of additional evidence as specified by the Board at its meeting.

D. Precedential Nature of Decision (two alternatives; either may be used):

1. For use if the Board wants further argument on the issue of whether to designate its Decision as precedential:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System requests the parties in the matter concerning the appeals of James C. Atkinson, Daniel W. Atkinson and Amanda S. Schmitt regarding death benefits payable on account of Catherine Atkinson, as well as interested parties, to submit written argument regarding whether the Board's Decision in this matter should be designated as precedential, and that the Board will consider the issue whether to designate its Decision as precedential at a time to be determined.

2. For use if the Board decides to designate its Decision as precedential, without further argument from the parties.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, hereby designates as precedential its Decision concerning the appeals of James C. Atkinson, Daniel W. Atkinson and Amanda S. Schmitt regarding death benefits payable on account of Catherine Atkinson.

BUDGET AND FISCAL IMPACTS: Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Proposed Decision
Attachment B: Staff's Argument
Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

DONNA RAMEL LUM
Deputy Executive Officer
Customer Services and Support