



Agenda Item 8h

August 20, 2014

ITEM NAME: Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Application for Pre-Retirement Benefits Payable Upon the Death of ANGELINA BELL by SOLOMON ORONA, Respondent and DANA BELL, Respondent.

PROGRAM: Benefit Services Division

ITEM TYPE: Action

PARTIES' POSITIONS

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

Respondent Solomon Orona argues that the Board of Administration should decline to adopt the Proposed Decision.

Respondent Dana Bell 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

At the time of her death, Decedent Angelina Bell had a valid beneficiary designation on file naming her spouse, Respondent Orona and her daughter, Respondent Bell as co-primary beneficiaries. Respondent Orona submitted documentation to CalPERS to support his claim that he should receive 100% of the pre-retirement death benefits. CalPERS determined that Respondent Orona was not entitled to 100% of the pre-retirement death benefits. Respondent Orona appealed this determination and the matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings on June 5, 2014. A Proposed Decision was issued on June 18, 2014, denying Respondent Orona's appeal.

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 June 18, 2014, concerning the appeal of Solomon Orona; 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 June 18, 2014, concerning the appeal of Solomon Orona, 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 June 18, 2014, concerning the appeal of Solomon Orona, 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 appeal of Solomon Orona, 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 appeal of Solomon Orona.

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