



Board of Administration

Agenda Item 8a2

February 14, 2023

Item Name: Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Appeal of Survivor Allowance Payable Upon the Death of The Honorable Richard M. Sims III by LINDA J. WALLIHAN, Respondent, and GEORGIANA C. SIMS, Respondent.

Program: Retirement Benefit Services Division

Item Type: Action

Parties' Positions

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

Respondent Linda H. Wallihan's (Respondent Wallihan) position is included in Attachment C, if any.

Respondent Georgiana C. Sims's (Respondent Sims) position is included in Attachment C, if any.

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

The Honorable Richard Sims III was married first to Respondent Sims, and after their divorce, to second wife Respondent Wallihan. After Justice Sims died, CalPERS determined that the proper beneficiary to the Survivor Allowance payable after his death was Respondent Sims. Respondent Wallihan submitted an appeal, and the matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings on July 18 and 20, 2022. The record was reopened by the Administrative Law Judge, and a Telephonic Status Conference was held on October 19, 2022, giving the parties an opportunity to submit supplemental briefs. A Proposed Decision was issued on December 22, 2022, granting Respondent Wallihan'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 December 22,

2022, concerning the appeal of Linda H. Wallihan; 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 December 22, 2022, concerning the appeal of Linda H. Wallihan, 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 December 22, 2022, concerning the appeal of Linda H. Wallihan, 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 Linda H. Wallihan, 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 Linda H. Wallihan.

Budget and Fiscal Impacts: Not applicable

Attachments

Attachment A: Proposed Decision

Attachment B: Staff's Argument

Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

Anthony Suine
Deputy Executive Officer
Customer Services and Support