Board of Administration

Agenda Item 8a5

November 18, 2026

Item Name: Proposed Decision – In the Matter of the Lifetime Monthly Allowance Payable Upon the Death of Barry C. Lewis by CAROLE MARIE DE GÉRY, Respondent, and KATHLEEN LOUIS LEWIS, Respondent.

Program: Disability and Survivor Benefits Division

Item Type: Action

Parties' Positions

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

The position of Respondent Carole Marie de Géry (Respondent de Géry), if any, is included in Attachment C.

The position of Respondent Kathleen Louis Lewis (Respondent Lewis), if any, is included in Attachment C.

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

Respondent de Géry appealed CalPERS' determination that Respondent Lewis is the designated beneficiary of Barry C. Lewis' Option 3W retirement allowance payable upon his death. The matter was heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings on July 20 and August 11, 2026. Due to Respondent Lewis' failure to appear, the case proceeded as a default under Government Code section 11520 as to Respondent Lewis only. A Proposed Decision was issued on September 2, 2026, affirming CalPERS' determination and denying the 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 September 2, 2026, concerning the appeal of Carole Marie de Géry; 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 September 2, 2026, concerning the appeal of Carole Marie de Géry, 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 September 2, 2026, concerning the appeal of Carole Marie de Géry, 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 Carole Marie de Géry, 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 Carole Marie de Géry.

Budget and Fiscal Impacts: Not applicable

Attachments

Attachment A: Proposed Decision

Attachment B: Staff's Argument

Attachment C: Respondent(s) Argument(s)

Kimberly A. Malm
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Customer Services and Support