

Information for a Retiree's Surviving Family

(Update: April 2018)

Surviving families of AVCO/Textron employees may receive or have a right to continue certain benefits. **Continuation of benefits does require action on the part of the surviving spouse.** Since the benefits vary for each employee, this brief document points out areas where action on the part of the family is or may be required.

Important: A retiree should complete and maintain up-to-date beneficiary designations with Fidelity to reflect the retiree's intended distribution of benefits upon her/his death.

Textron Benefits Service Center: Textron outsources the administration of all benefits to Fidelity through the "Textron Benefits Service Center." Families should direct questions on **all** survivor benefits (pension, medical, dental, life insurance and 401K) to the Textron Benefits Service Center. See contact information below. The family must notify Fidelity of the retiree's death as soon as possible to expedite survivor benefits and to avoid repayment of benefits which would have terminated upon the retiree's death.

Textron Benefits Service Center Contact Information		
Method	Address	Required ID
Phone	866-698-9847	Username; Password or Soc. Sec. #
Internet	www.netbenefits.com/	Username; Password
Mail	Fidelity Benefits Service Center PO Box 770003 Cincinnati OH 45277-0071 Attention: Textron	Probably requires additional steps (phone contact) to validate your identity

Social Security (1-800-772-1213) must be notified in the event of a participant's death.

Pensions: Textron provided retirees with multiple pension options. **Call the Textron Benefits Service Center to determine (See above) the survivor pension benefit.**

Medical Insurance: In some cases, a surviving spouse is entitled to lifetime medical benefits. **Check with the Textron Benefits Center to find out if you qualify.** Make sure you receive the yearly notice of medical benefit changes and follow instructions on enrollment. You should receive a letter from Textron every October or November

about the following year's benefit schedule. Call the Benefits Center if you do not get this letter. **Remember — you are responsible for sending in premiums for medical insurance.**

Medicare: www.medicare.gov is the Government website providing comprehensive Medicare information. In MA, the SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Program provides free health insurance information and counseling to all Massachusetts residents with Medicare and their caregivers. People who have Medicare or who are about to become eligible for Medicare can meet with a counselor to learn about benefits and options available. You can reach a SHINE Counselor at (800) 243-4636. In NH, comparable information is available at the ServiceLink Resource Centers at 866-634-9412 or www.servicelink.nh.gov.

Life Insurance: Many employees may be entitled to life insurance benefits. **Find the insurance data in the retiree's separation papers or call or logon to the Textron Benefits Center (www.netbenefits.com) to determine the benefit.** For example, all full-time salaried employees who attained age 55 with 10 years of service prior to January 1, 2007 are entitled to a \$5,000 benefit administered by MetLife (1-800-638-6420).

401ks and IRAs: 401K plans and IRAs are normally transferred to the spouse as the primary beneficiary. Transfers have a 60 day time limit to avoid taxes. **These are complicated plans; you should seek financial advice particularly in the area of beneficiary designation, beneficiary changes and the most effective withdrawal method when you reach the mandatory withdrawal age (70 ½).**

Veterans: If the veteran was receiving disability compensation or a pension, call the **Veterans** Benefits Administration at 1-800-827-1000. Deceased veterans are entitled to burial and other benefits. Proof of service is denoted in U.S. Government Form DD 214. **Contact your local town veterans' services office for details.**

Death Notification Checklist: It is important to notify various government agencies, banks, creditors and credit reporting agencies of the retiree's death. To reduce the risk of identity theft, these notifications should be made promptly. You should initially make the contact by telephone followed by written verification. A recommended list of contacts appears at <https://www.oprm.va.gov/docs/DeathNotificationChecklist.pdf>

Summary: If you need more help in this transition period, you may contact the [Retirement Benefits Affairs Committee](mailto:tsrabenefits@tsretirees.org) via e-mail (tsrabenefits@tsretirees.org).