



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS
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August 2019

TO: Certifying Officers – Police and Firemen’s Retirement System (PFRS), Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS), and State Police Retirement System (SPRS)

FROM: New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (NJDPB)

SUBJECT: New Legislation Notice – P.L. 2019, c. 157

This letter serves as notification of a new law that permits certain members and retirees of the Police and Firemen’s Retirement System (PFRS), the State Police Retirement System (SPRS), and Tiers 1, 2, and 3 of the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS), to receive an Accidental Disability Retirement allowance for a disability resulting from participation in the 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.

P.L. 2019, c. 157 (Chapter 157), the Bill Ricci World Trade Center Rescue, Recovery, and Cleanup Operations Act, permits an active member of the PFRS, the SPRS, and PERS Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to file for an Accidental Disability Retirement if the member is or is to become totally and permanently disabled due to participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center between September 11, 2001, and October 11, 2001, regardless of whether the member was enrolled in the PFRS, SPRS, or PERS at the time of participation or under orders or instruction by an employer to participate.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members who were present and worked or volunteered in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center must complete and return an *Eligibility Registration Form* within two years of the date of enactment of Chapter 157, or July 8, 2021. Filing this form allows the member the right to apply for an Accidental Disability Retirement in the future should he/she become totally and permanently disabled as a direct result of participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center. If an *Eligibility Registration Form* is not filed by July 8, 2021, the member will not be permitted to apply for an Accidental Disability Retirement resulting from participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center.

The *Eligibility Registration Form* is not an application for Accidental Disability Retirement. Members who have filed an *Eligibility Registration Form* and subsequently become totally and permanently disabled must complete an application for Accidental Disability Retirement and indicate their disability is due to the participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center.

QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

Members submitting an *Eligibility Registration Form* must certify that they were present and worked at a location below a line starting from the Hudson River and Canal Street, east on Canal Street to Pike Street, south on Pike Street to the East River, and extending to the lower tip of Manhattan, and:

- Worked/volunteered for at least eight hours at the World Trade Center between September 11, 2001, and October 11, 2001; or
- Worked/volunteered for a total of less than eight hours on September 11, 2001, and/or September 12, 2001, and sustained a documented physical injury that prevented them from continuing participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.

The following medically documented qualifying conditions include:

- Diseases of the upper respiratory tract and mucosae, including conditions such as conjunctivitis, rhinitis, sinusitis, pharyngitis, laryngitis, vocal cord disease, upper airway hyper-reactivity, trachea-bronchitis, or a combination of such conditions;
- Diseases of the lower respiratory tract, including but not limited to bronchitis, asthma, reactive airway dysfunction syndrome, and different types of pneumonitis such as hypersensitivity, granulomatous, or eosinophilic;
- Diseases of the gastroesophageal tract, including acute or chronic esophagitis and reflux disease caused by exposure or aggravated exposure;
- Diseases of the psychological axis, including post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, or any combination of such conditions;
- Diseases of the skin such as contact dermatitis or burns, either acute or chronic in nature, infectious, irritant, allergic, idiopathic or non-specific reactive in nature, caused by exposure or aggravated by exposure; and
- New onset diseases resulting from exposure as such diseases occurring in the future including cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asbestos-related disease, heavy metal poisoning, musculoskeletal disease, and chronic psychological disease.

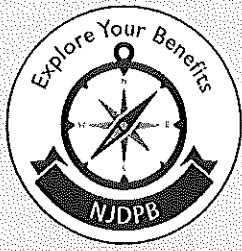
EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Your attention to this distribution is required under N.J.A.C. 17:2-1.5, 17:4-1.5, and 17:5-1.4. The information contained in this Certifying Officer letter must be made available to all of your location's employees and confirmation of such provided to the NJDPB. Certifying Officers must complete the attached *Employer Confirmation of Distribution Form* for each of their assigned locations and submit the documents to the NJDPB via the Online Document Submission in the Employer Pensions and Benefits Information Connection (EPIC) no later than September 16, 2019.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding any of the information provided in this letter, contact the NJDPB's Office of Client Services at (609) 292-7524, or email the NJDPB at: pensions.nj@treas.nj.gov

Attachments



State of New Jersey • Department of the Treasury

DIVISION OF PENSIONS & BENEFITS — DISABILITY RETIREMENT SECTION

P.O. Box 295, Trenton, NJ 08625-0295

ELIGIBILITY REGISTRATION FORM

In accordance with P.L. 2019, c.157 (Chapter 157), the Bill Ricci World Trade Center Rescue, Recovery, and Cleanup Operations Act, this *Eligibility Registration Form* allows eligible PFRS, SPRS, and certain PERS members or retirees the right to file for an Accidental Disability Retirement should they become disabled at a later date due to participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center.

I hereby submit this statement to register my participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center site between September 11, 2001, and October 11, 2001, or September 11, 2001, and/or September 12, 2001, as described in Options A and B below.

MEMBER INFORMATION *(please print)*

Select Retirement System: PFRS SPRS PERS Membership or Retirement Number _____

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____
Month Day Year

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Email address: _____ Daytime Phone: (_____) _____

PERIOD WORKED OR VOLUNTEERED *(check A or B)*

- A** I was present and worked or volunteered in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center for a total of eight (8) hours or more between September 11, 2001, and October 11, 2001, on the following dates and location(s) and for the number of hours specified:

Date: _____ Location: _____ Number of hours: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____ Number of hours: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____ Number of hours: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____ Number of hours: _____

- B** I was present and worked or volunteered in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center for a total of less than eight (8) hours or more between September 11, 2001, and/or September 12, 2001, and sustained a documented physical injury that prevented me from continuing to participate in the World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations:

Date: _____ Location: _____

Option B continued on next page

ELIGIBILITY REGISTRATION FORM

(Option B continued)

Description of physical injury (please attach all documentation in support of the physical injury which prevented you from continuing to participate in the World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup for a minimum of eight hours):

If you are unable to submit the required documentation, explain how you attempted to obtain it and the reason you are unable to provide it.

By my signature, I attest that I have answered the questions on the *Eligibility Registration Form* truthfully, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. Further, I understand that any person who knowingly and willfully makes any false statement, misrepresentation, concealment of fact, or any other act of fraud in submitting this *Eligibility Registration Form* pursuant to the Bill Ricci World Trade Center, Rescue, Recovery, and Cleanup Operations Act to which that person is not entitled is subject to punishment inclusive of civil and/or administrative remedies, as well as criminal prosecution to which may provide for punishment of a fine or imprisonment.

_____ *Member Signature* _____ / / _____
Month Day Year

State of _____

County of _____

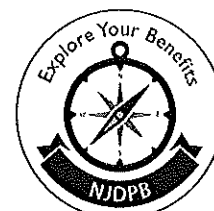
Sworn and Subscribed before member this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

(Affix notary stamp here)

_____ *Notary Public Signature*

My Commission Expires: _____

Return Completed Form To: New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits
Disability Retirement Section
P.O. Box 295
Trenton, NJ 08625-0295



MO-1052-0719

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the registration start date?

Registration begins on July 8, 2019, the date of enactment of the Bill Ricci World Trade Center Rescue, Recovery, Cleanup Operations Act.

When is the registration deadline?

The registration deadline is two years from the date of enactment, which is no later than July 8, 2021.

To whom does the registration requirement apply?

The registration requirement applies to all members who participated in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center site between September 11, 2001, and October 11, 2001, or September 11, 2001, and/or September 12, 2001.

What happens if I fail to register by the deadline?

Any member who fails to register by the registration deadline shall not qualify for the presumption that your disability is related to the World Trade Center rescue, recovery, and cleanup operations.

How do I register?

Complete this *Eligibility Registration Form* in its entirety and have it notarized. Mail the form along with the requested documentation to the address provided. You may wish to mail the form via certified mail, return receipt requested, as the New Jersey Division of Pensions & Benefits (NJDPB) may require proof of submission at a later date. Be sure to keep a copy for your records. You will receive confirmation that the NJDPB has received your *Eligibility Registration Form*.

Does this *Eligibility Registration Form* preclude me from filing an application for Accidental Disability Retirement if I become disabled at a later date?

No. The *Eligibility Registration Form* is notification to the NJDPB that you participated in rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center site between September 11, 2001, and October 11, 2001, or September 11, 2001, and/or September 12, 2001. If you subsequently become disabled due to this participation, you must file an application for Accidental Disability Retirement and indicate your disability is due to your participation in the rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations at the World Trade Center.



MO-1052-0719