



Privacy Act of 1974  
System of Records Notice  
**U.S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

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<i>Name</i>	<b>RRB-22: Railroad Retirement, Survivor, and Pensioner Benefit System</b> .....
<i>Federal Register</i>	<a href="#">79 FR 58890</a>
<i>Effective Date</i>	December 1, 2014
<i>System Location</i>	U.S. Railroad Retirement Board—Headquarters: 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611; Regional and District Offices
<i>Security Classification</i>	None.
<i>Categories of Individuals Covered by the System</i>	Applicants for retirement and survivor benefits, (spouses, divorced spouses, widows, surviving divorced spouses, children, students, parents, grandchildren), and individuals who file for lump-sum death benefits and/or residual payments.
<i>Categories of Records in the System</i>	Information pertaining to the payment or denial of an individual's claim for benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act: Name, address, social security number, claim number, proofs of age, marriage, relationship, death, military service, creditable earnings and service months (including military service), entitlement to benefits under the Social Security Act, programs administered by the Veterans Administration, or other benefit systems, rates, effective dates, medical reports, correspondence and telephone inquiries to and about the beneficiary, suspension and termination dates, health insurance effective date, option, premium rate and deduction, direct deposit data, employer pension information, citizenship status and legal residency status (for annuitants living outside the United States), and tax withholding information (instructions of annuitants regarding number of exemptions claimed and additional amounts to be withheld, as well as actual amounts withheld for tax purposes).
<i>Authority for Maintenance of the System</i>	Section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 ( <a href="#">45 U.S.C. § 231f(b)(6)</a> ).
<i>Purpose(s)</i>	Records in this system of records are maintained to administer the benefit provisions of the Railroad Retirement Act, sections of the Internal Revenue Code related to the taxation of railroad retirement benefits, and Title XVIII of the Social Security Act as it pertains to Medicare coverage for railroad retirement beneficiaries.
<i>Routine Uses of Records Maintained in the System, Including Categories of Users and Purposes of Such Uses</i>	<p>a. Beneficiary identifying information may be disclosed to third party contacts to determine if incapacity of the beneficiary or potential beneficiary to understand or use benefits exists, and to determine the suitability of a proposed representative payee.</p> <p>b. In the event the Board has determined to designate a person to be the representative payee of an incompetent beneficiary, disclosure of information concerning the benefit amount and other similar information may be made to the representative payee from</p>



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the record of the individual.

c. Entitlement and benefit rates may be released to primary beneficiaries regarding secondary beneficiaries (or vice versa) when the addition of such beneficiary affects either the entitlement or benefit payment.

d. Identifying information such as full name, address, date of birth, social security number, employee identification number, and date last worked, may be released to any last employer to verify entitlement for benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act.

e. Beneficiary identifying information, address, check rates, number and date may be released to the Department of the Treasury to control for reclamation and return of outstanding benefit payments, to issue benefit payments, act on report of non-receipt, to insure delivery of payments to the correct address of the beneficiary or representative payee or to the proper financial organization, and to investigate alleged forgery, theft or unlawful negotiation of railroad retirement benefit checks or improper diversion of payments directed to a financial organization.

f. Beneficiary identifying information, address, check rate, date, number and other supporting evidence may be released to the U.S. Postal Service for investigation of alleged forgery or theft of railroad retirement or social security benefit checks.

g. Beneficiary identifying information, entitlement data, medical evidence and related evaluatory data and benefit rate may be released to the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to correlate actions with the administration of Title II and Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended.

h. Beneficiary identifying information, including social security account number, and supplemental annuity amounts may be released to the Internal Revenue Service, for tax purposes

i. Beneficiary identifying information, entitlement, benefit rates, medical evidence and related evaluatory data, and months paid may be furnished to the Veterans Administration for the purpose of assisting that agency in determining eligibility for benefits or verifying continued entitlement to and the correct amount of benefits payable under programs which it administers.

j. Beneficiary identifying information, entitlement data and benefit rates may be released to the Department of State and embassy and consular officials, the American Institute on Taiwan, and to the



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Veterans Administration Regional Office, Philippines, to aid in the development of applications, supporting evidence, and the continued eligibility of beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries living abroad.

k. Beneficiary identifying information, entitlement, benefit rates and months paid may be released to the Social Security Administration (Bureau of Supplemental Security Income) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to federal, state and local welfare or public aid agencies to assist them in processing applications for benefits under their respective programs.

l. The last addresses and employer information may be released to the Department of Health and Human Services in conjunction with the Parent Locator Service.

m. Beneficiary identifying information, entitlement, rate and other pertinent data may be released to the Department of Labor in conjunction with payment of benefits under the Federal Coal Mine and Safety Act.

n. Medical evidence may be released to Board-appointed medical examiners to carry out their functions.

o. Information obtained in the administration of Title XVIII (Medicare) which may indicate unethical or unprofessional conduct of a physician or practitioner providing services to beneficiaries may be released to Professional Standards Review Organizations and State Licensing Boards.

p. Information necessary to study the relationship between benefits paid by the Railroad Retirement Board and civil service annuities may be released to the Office of Personnel Management.

q. Records may be disclosed to the General Accountability Office for auditing purposes and for collection of debts arising from overpayments under Title II and Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended, or the Railroad Retirement Act.

r. Pursuant to a request from an employer covered by the Railroad Retirement Act or the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, or from an organization under contract to an employer or employers, information regarding the Board's payment of retirement benefits, the methods by which such benefits are calculated, entitlement data and present address may be released to the requesting employer or the organization under contract to an employer or employers for the purposes of determining entitlement to and rates of private supplemental pension, sickness or unemployment benefits and to



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calculate estimated benefits due.

s. If a request for information pertaining to an individual is made by an official of a labor organization of which the individual is a member and the request is made on behalf of the individual, information from the record of the individual concerning his benefit or anticipated benefit and concerning the method of calculating that benefit may be disclosed to the labor organization official.

t. Records may be disclosed in a court proceeding relating to any claims for benefits by the beneficiary under the Railroad Retirement Act, and may be disclosed during the course of an administrative appeal to individuals who need the records to prosecute or decide the appeal or to individuals who are requested to provide information relative to an issue involved in the appeal.

u. The amount of a residual lump-sum payment and the identity of the payee may be released to the Internal Revenue Service for tax audit purposes.

v. The amount of any death benefit or annuities accrued but unpaid at death and the identity of such payee may be released to the appropriate state taxing authorities for tax assessment and auditing purposes.

w. Beneficiary identifying information, including but not limited to name, address, social security account number, payroll number and occupation, the fact of entitlement and benefit rate may be released to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to enable that agency to determine and pay supplemental pensions to qualified railroad retirees.

x. Medical records may be disclosed to vocational consultants in administrative proceedings.

y. Date employee filed application for annuity to the last employer under the Railroad Retirement Act for use in determining entitlement to continued major medical benefits under insurance programs negotiated with labor organizations.

z. Information regarding the determination and recovery of an overpayment made to an individual may be released to any other individual from whom any portion of the overpayment is being recovered.

aa. The name and address of an annuitant may be released to a Member of Congress when the Member requests it in order that he or she may communicate with the annuitant about legislation which



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affects the railroad retirement system.

bb. Certain identifying information about annuitants, such as name, social security number, RRB claim number, and date of birth, as well as address, year and month last worked for a railroad, last railroad occupation, application filing date, annuity beginning date, identity of last railroad employer, total months of railroad service, sex, disability onset date, disability freeze onset date, and cause and effective date of annuity termination may be furnished to insurance companies for administering group life and medical insurance plans negotiated between certain participating railroad employers and railway labor organizations.

cc. For payments made after December 31, 1983, beneficiary identifying information, address, amounts of benefits paid and repaid, beneficiary withholding instructions, and amounts withheld by the RRB for tax purposes may be furnished to the Internal Revenue Service for tax administration purposes.

dd. Last address and beneficiary identifying information may be furnished to railroad employers for the purpose of mailing railroad passes to retired employees and their families.

ee. Entitlement data and benefits rates may be released to any court, state agency, or interested party, or to the representative of such court, state agency, or interested party, in connection with contemplated or actual legal or administrative proceedings concerning domestic relations and support matters.

ff. Identifying information about annuitants and applicants may be furnished to agencies and/or companies from which such annuitants and applicants are receiving or may receive worker's compensation, public pension, or public disability benefits in order to verify the amount by which Railroad Retirement Act benefits must be reduced, where applicable.

gg. Disability annuitant identifying information may be furnished to state employment agencies for the purpose of determining whether such annuitants were employed during times they receive disability benefits.

hh. Identifying information about Medicare-entitled beneficiaries who may be working may be disclosed to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for the purposes of determining whether Medicare should be the secondary payer of benefits for such individuals.

ii. Disclosure of information in claim folders is authorized for bonafide researchers doing epidemiological/mortality studies



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<i>Disclosure to Consumer Reporting Agencies</i>	None.
<i>Policies and Practices for Storing, Retrieving, Accessing, Retaining, and Disposing of Records in the System</i>	
<i>Storage</i>	Paper, microforms, magnetic tape and magnetic disk.
<i>Retrievability</i>	Claim number, social security number and full name.
<i>Safeguards</i>	<p>Paper and Microforms: Maintained in areas not accessible to the public in locking filing cabinets. Access is limited to authorized RRB employees. Offices are locked during non-business hours. Building has 24 hour on-site security officers, closed circuit television monitoring and intrusion detection systems.</p> <p>Magnetic tape and disks: Computer and computer storage rooms are restricted to authorized personnel; on-line query safeguards include a lock/unlock password system, a terminal oriented transaction matrix, role based access controls and audit trail. For computerized records electronically transmitted between headquarters and field office locations, system securities are established in accordance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidelines, including network monitoring, defenses in-depth, incident response and forensics. In addition to the on-line query safeguards, they include encryption of all data</p>



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<i>Retention and Disposal</i>	Paper: Shredded, according to NIST standards, no sooner than 7 years and no later than 10 years after the close of the benefit year in which originated.  Magnetic tape: Magnetic tape records are retained for 90 days and then written over following NIST guidelines. For disaster recovery purposes certain tapes are stored 12-18 months.  Magnetic disk: Continually updated and permanently retained. When magnetic disk or other electronic media is no longer servicable, it is sanitized in accordance with NIST guidelines.
<i>System Manager(s) and Address</i>	Office of Programs--Director of Policy and Systems, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.
<i>Notification Procedure</i>	Requests for information regarding an individual's records should be in writing, including the full name, social security number and railroad retirement claim number(if any) of the individual. Before information about any records will be released, the individual may be required to provide proof of identity, or authorization from the individual to permit release of information. Requests should be sent to the Director of Unemployment & Programs Support Division, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.
<i>Record Access Procedure</i>	See Notification section above.
<i>Contesting Record Procedure</i>	See Notification section above.
<i>Record Source Categories</i>	Individual applicants or their representatives, railroad employers, other employers, physicians, labor organizations, federal, state and local government agencies, attorneys, funeral homes, congressmen, schools, foreign government.
<i>Exemptions Claimed for the System</i>	None.