

Avon Fire and Rescue

Firefighters' Pension Scheme

Administered by Bath & North East Somerset Council



Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Nomination of dependent partner for survivor's pension

FB 004

Firefighters' Pension Schemes 2006, Special or 2015

Benefits payable upon the death of a member of the 2006, Special or 2015 Firefighters' Pension Scheme include pensions for children, and for a surviving spouse or civil partner. The Scheme also provides benefits, similar to those for a surviving spouse or civil partner, for a partner with whom the firefighter has not entered marriage or formed a civil partnership but where:

- an appropriate nomination and joint declaration has been made (2006 and Special Schemes only), and
- the Fire and Rescue Authority are satisfied that, at the date of the firefighter's death, the nominated partner was living with the firefighter in an exclusive, committed, long-term relationship (normally for at least two years) and that the conditions for are still met.

Please note that under the 2015 Scheme there is an automatic provision for cohabiting partner's pensions which means there is no requirement to complete a nomination form. However, by completing this form it provides details of your cohabiting partner in the event of your death.

The conditions for eligibility are that –

- both the firefighter and cohabiting partner must be free to marry or enter into a civil partnership in the United Kingdom (a guide to persons who are not allowed to marry or enter into a civil partnership can be obtained from your pensions administrator); and
- either the cohabiting partner must be financially dependent on the firefighter or the firefighter and cohabiting partner must be financially interdependent.

If you and/or your partner are currently married or have a civil partner then this type of nomination cannot be made. Upon your death, your spouse or civil partner would automatically receive a dependant's benefits under the provisions of the 2006, Special or 2015 Firefighters' Pension Scheme. This would be the case until such time as the marriage or civil partnership is annulled or dissolved. It would not be until that time that you would be able to make a nomination for your partner.

There is no requirement that you and your partner should have been in an "exclusive, committed, long-term relationship" at the date of making the nomination. This would not have to be demonstrated until date of death. At that time, the Fire and Rescue Authority would have to be satisfied that the relationship had existed for at least two years up to that date. (The Authority may waive the two-year requirement, at their discretion.)

It is never easy to ask for information when a person dies but the Authority has to do this to determine entitlement for benefits. You and your partner should be aware that this will happen. For example, the Authority may ask for confirmation that you lived in a shared household with shared household spending. Or your partner may be able to demonstrate that you had a bank account or mortgage in joint names. It may be that you and your partner have made wills, or have taken out life assurance, naming each other as the main beneficiary. This is the sort of evidence that the Authority would seek. There would be a right of appeal if the Authority decide not to pay a pension and your partner believes that he/she has entitlement.

If you wish to nominate your partner for dependant's benefits, complete the attached form. The declaration should be signed by both you and your partner and should be witnessed by a third party. Please detach the form from these notes and send to:

Avon Pension Fund, Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath BA1 1JG

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First read the notes. If you wish to proceed, use BLOCK CAPITALS to give details about yourself and your partner as requested below. You and your nominated partner should complete the declaration on the other side of this form and have the declaration witnessed. Then detach the form from the notes and return as directed.

YOUR DETAILS

SURNAME _____

FORENAME(S) _____ TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ NI NUMBER _____

EMPLOYEE NUMBER _____

NOMINATED PARTNER DETAILS

I nominate my partner named below to receive a nominated partner's pension under the 2015 Firefighter's Pension Scheme:

SURNAME _____

FORENAME(S) _____ TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ NI NUMBER _____

You should not rely on this nomination alone to give your partner entitlement to a pension. Upon your death, your Fire and Rescue Authority will need to be satisfied that your relationship meet the qualifying conditions for the payment of a pension.

Continued Overleaf

DECLARATION

We confirm that –

- we have lived together for years, during which time our financial affairs have been interdependent (or my nominated partner has been financially dependent upon me);
- we are in an exclusive, committed relationship with each other, and we intend to continue in this relationship indefinitely;
- we are mutually responsible for each other's welfare;
- we are not related in a way that would prevent marriage or civil partnership;
- neither of us is married to, or in a civil partnership with, anyone else;
- neither of us is currently nominated as the partner of anyone else.
- Please note under the 2006 scheme, a cohabiting partner must be nominated using this form. However, under the 2015 scheme there is an automatic provision for cohabiting partner's pensions which means there is no requirement for a nomination form. However, by completing this form it provides details of your cohabiting partner in the event of your death.

SCHEME MEMBER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
NOMINATED PARTNER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

WITNESSED BY:
Please use Block Capitals:

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS _____
NAME OF WITNESS _____
ADDRESS OF WITNESS _____

DATE _____