



# 1977 FUND AT A GLANCE

## 1977 POLICE OFFICERS' & FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT FUND

### Member Eligibility and Participation

Membership in the 1977 Fund is mandatory if:

- You are a full-time, fully paid police officer, or
- You are a full-time, fully paid firefighter (does not include volunteer firefighters),
- Your employer participates in the Fund, and
- You were hired or rehired after April 30, 1977.

To become a member of the 1977 Fund, a police officer, school resource officer (SRO), or firefighter **must**:

- Pass the required statewide baseline test and the local board's mental examinations, and
  - Firefighters, school resource officers, and police officers must be less than 40 years of age, or
  - Be a veteran with 20 years of armed forces service with a maximum age of 40 years and 6 months.
- An SRO rehired by a school corporation or charter school that participates in the 1977 Fund, after June 30, 2024, and is a member of the 1977 Fund will remain a member of the fund per IC 36-8-8-3(g).

### Contributions

- Employee pays 6% of certified first-class officer salary, deducted from each pay period.
- Employer pays a contribution rate determined annually by the INPRS Board of Trustees.

### Eligibility for Retirement Pension Benefit

For a full, unreduced pension benefit, you must be:

- Age 52 with at least 20 years of service credit in 1977 Fund.

Retirements after 06/01/2019: pension benefit is 52% of the base salary for your department. You will receive another 1% of the base salary for each 6 months of active service over 20 years. The most you can receive is 12 years, making the maximum annual benefit 76% of the annual salary at the time of your separation from service.

For early retirement with a reduced benefit:

- Age 50 with at least 20 years of service credit in 1977 Fund

Your pension benefit is reduced for each month of benefit payments prior to age 52. The reduced percentage rate is actuarially calculated & approved by the INPRS Board of Trustees.

- The 1977 Fund has a mandatory retirement age of 70.

### Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)

1977 Fund members must be eligible for an unreduced pension benefit to select the DROP option. Under DROP, members may continue to work and earn a salary while accumulating a DROP benefit payable in one lump sum or 3 annual installments. Also, you will get a monthly pension benefit equal to your DROP frozen benefit.

- The percentage used for DROP is based on the DROP entry date.
- If you entered DROP AFTER June 03, 2024, your DROP retirement date cannot be less than 12 months and not more than 60 months after the DROP entry date.
- **You cannot exit, then re-enter DROP.**
- **The DROP may be entered only once.**

If you entered DROP prior to July 1, 2024, and have not exited, you may extend your DROP retirement date up to 60 months after your DROP entry date. You must notify your employer within 30 days of making this election if you make this change.

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### Beneficiary

Eligible beneficiaries for members of the 1977 Fund are set by statute in IC 36-8-8-13.9 and IC 36-8-8-14.1. However, you may designate one or more beneficiaries to receive your member contribution balance plus interest (rate determined by the INPRS Board) if you die before:

1. receiving a retirement pension benefit, or
2. receiving a disability benefit, or
3. a survivor entitled to receive a benefit, or
4. INPRS distributing your member contributions.

If you fail to designate a beneficiary, your contributions plus interest will be paid to your estate.

### Survivor Benefits

Survivors of active, vested inactive, and retired members (non-line of duty):

- If you are an active and vested member at the time of death, your designated beneficiary or estate will receive a one-time lump sum benefit of \$12,000.
  1. Spouse will receive a lifetime monthly benefit that equals 70% of your monthly benefit. The benefit is calculated as if you were receiving benefits at age 52 with 20 years of service. If you have more than 20 years, the benefit will increase 1% for each 6 months of additional service.
  2. Each surviving child will receive a monthly benefit that equals 20% of your monthly benefit until the child reaches age 18, or until age 23 if the child is enrolled in and attends a secondary school, or the child is no longer a full-time student at an accredited college or university.
  3. If no surviving spouse or children, surviving parent(s) will receive a lifetime benefit that equals 50% of your monthly benefit.

*If you are an inactive member with less than 20 years of active service and you die, there is **no** survivor benefit payable. The \$12,000 death benefit is **not** payable to inactive non-vested members.*

Active members who die in the line of duty after July 1, 2020:

- One-time lump sum death benefit of \$225,000.
  1. Spouse will receive a lifetime monthly benefit that equals 100% of your monthly benefit. The benefit is calculated as if you were receiving benefits at age 52 with 20 years of service. If you have more than 20 years, the benefit will increase 1% for each 6 months of additional service.
  2. Each surviving child will receive a monthly benefit that equals 20% of your monthly benefit until the child reaches age 18, or until age 23 if the child is enrolled in and attends a secondary school, or the child is no longer a full-time student at an accredited college or university.
  3. If no surviving spouse or children, surviving parent(s) will receive a lifetime benefit that equals 50% of your monthly benefit.

### Withdrawals Before Retirement

If you separate from service in a 1977 Fund-covered position for a reason other than death or disability prior to completing 20 years of active service, you may apply for a distribution of your contributions plus interest. The interest rate is specified by the INPRS Board of Trustees.

## FOR YOUR BENEFIT

This handout is an overview of the 1977 Fund plan provisions. Complete details are available in the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' member handbook. You may read it or print your copy from the INPRS website. You may also request a copy in writing or by calling our toll-free number, (844) GO-INPRS or 844-464-6777.

It is your responsibility to keep your name, address, and beneficiary choices current. Visit your online account at [myINPRSretirement.org](http://myINPRSretirement.org) to make changes.

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