



DELTA DISABLED PILOTS AND SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

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www.ddpsa.org

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SURVIVOR BENEFITS

The Delta Disabled Pilots and Survivors Association (DDPSA) often encounters survivors of recently deceased pilots who are confused about the Monthly Income Survivor Benefit from the Delta Pilots Disability and Survivorship (D&S) Plan. It may be helpful to review the following bullet points:

- The D&S Plan is distinct from the Delta Pilots Retirement Plan which was terminated in the Delta bankruptcy.
- The D&S Plan was not terminated during the Delta bankruptcy.
- If a pilot retired from Delta before January 1, 2008, a D&S Plan Monthly Income Survivor Benefit may be available for his surviving spouse.
- Information about D&S Plan survivors' benefits is available on the DDPSA website www.ddpsa.org (SURVIVORS page).
- The FLIGHT PLAN FOR THE FINAL FLIGHT WEST, which is posted on the website, contains valuable information.
- The SURVIVOR BENEFIT WORKSHEET can be used to estimate the Monthly Income Survivor Benefit. Maintaining current estimates of the survivors benefit may be helpful in confirming the accuracy of Delta's benefit determination.

DDPSA has been made aware of occasional problems that survivors have encountered when applying for the D&S Plan Monthly Income Survivor Benefit. When contacting the Employee Service Center to report the death of a Delta Pilot, we recommend the following:

1. State that the deceased was a **Delta pilot** who retired before January 1, 2008.
2. You are requesting the application for the Monthly Income Survivor Benefit payable from the **Delta Pilots D&S Plan**.
3. Ask for a case number to ensure that your case is reviewed at a higher level.

There has been confusion in cases where the pilot was employed as a simulator instructor after retiring from Delta. In these cases, the pilot was given a second employee number. It is essential that the original employee number (as a Delta pilot) be used to obtain the benefit from the Delta Pilots D&S Plan.

Another source of confusion arose when the survivor requested a benefit from the **Retirement Plan** (the Delta Pilots Retirement Plan which now is administered by the PBGC). Upon retirement, the vast majority of pilots elected a lump sum distribution

on one-half of the Delta Pilots Retirement Plan benefit and a single life annuity on the other half. In such cases, the **Retirement Plan** does **not** pay a survivor benefit; however the **D&S Plan** monthly income survivor benefit still is available.

DDPSA would like to see that the last remaining surviving spouse eligible for benefits from the D&S Plan receives those benefits. Please contact us if difficulties are encountered when applying for Delta Pilot D&S Plan benefits.

Ev Gost
Chairman DDPSA