

Pension Counseling and Information Program Pension Rights Center

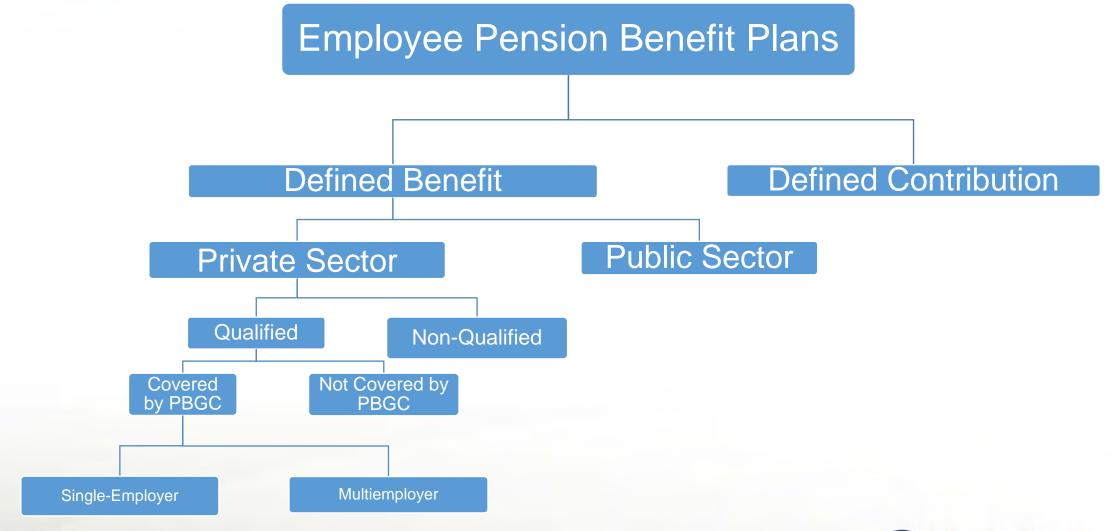
November 12, 2024

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# Types of Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plans





# Two Types of Qualified DB Plans

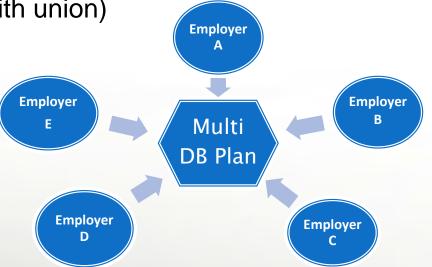
# Single-Employer Plan

- One employer sponsors the plan on behalf of its employees
- Can be, but doesn't need to be, collectively bargained

# Multiemployer Plan

- Collectively bargained and sponsored by more than one employer
- Administered by Board of Trustees

 Facilitates continued benefit accruals when employee moves from employer to employer (but sticks with union)





# **Overview of PBGC**

- Mission (per statute)
  - Encourage the continuation and maintenance of voluntary private pension plans
  - Provide for timely and uninterrupted payment of pension benefits to participants and beneficiaries
  - Maintain premiums at the lowest level consistent with its obligations
- PBGC's two programs operate very differently
  - Single-Employer Program: PBGC takes over and administers plans that terminate without sufficient assets
  - Multiemployer Program: When a plan runs out of money ("becomes insolvent"),
     PBGC provides financial assistance so that plan can continue to provided benefits
- New role related to multiemployer plans implement and operate the Special Financial Assistance (SFA) Program



# **PBGC Coverage**

- PBGC covers most private-sector qualified DB plans unless exception applies
- Exceptions:
  - Substantial Owner Plans
  - Small Professional Service Plans
  - Certain Puerto Rico Plans, unless they opt in
  - Church Plans, unless they opt in
- Covered plans can't opt out
- Except as noted above, non-covered plans can't opt in





# Measuring Funded Status of PBGC Programs

# Assets

- Separate funds for two programs
- Sources of income

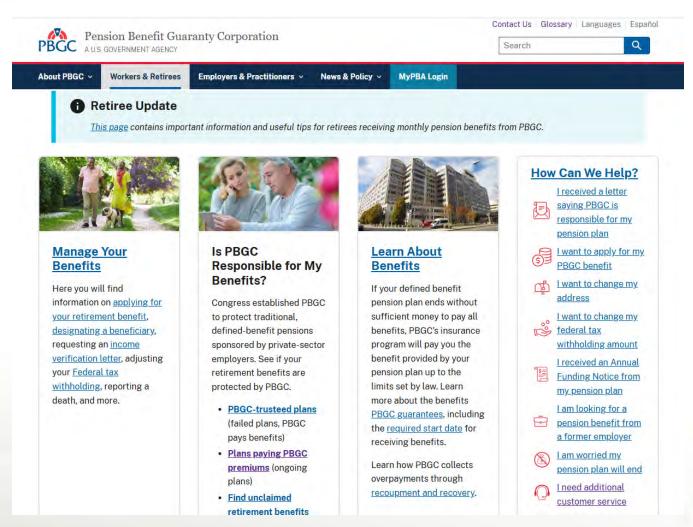
Single-Employer Program	Multiemployer Program
• Premiums	<ul> <li>Premiums</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Assets from plans that PBGC</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Income on government</li> </ul>
trustees	securities
<ul> <li>Recoveries in bankruptcies</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Investment income</li> </ul>	

# Liabilities

- Measured at market value
- Includes "probables"



# **PBGC** information for Workers and Retirees





# At A

# PBGC.gov Resources

# PBGC information for Workers and Retirees: https://www.pbgc.gov/workers-retirees

# Manage Your Benefits

Here you will find information on applying for your retirement benefits, designating a beneficiary, requesting an income verification letter, adjusting your Federal tax withholding, reporting a death, and more.

#### **Benefits**

#### **Apply for Your Benefits**

Learn how to apply for pension benefits once you become eligible under your pension plan.

#### **Designate a Beneficiary**

Find out the three types of beneficiaries. How to report a death and to designate a beneficiary.

#### **Appeal Your PBGC Benefit Determination**

See how to appeal your benefit determination.

### **Payments**

#### **Change Your Federal Tax Withholding**

See how to change your federal income tax withholding amount.

#### IRS 1099r Tax Form

Obtain IRS Form 1099-R to file your taxes.

#### Request an Income Verification Letter

Request a letter to prove your pension income for housing assistance, a mortgage or other loan, or verification for another agency.

#### **Apply for or Update Direct Deposit**

Learn how to apply for or update your direct deposit information. It's safe, secure, and simple, and eliminates the risk of lost or stolen pension checks or postal delays.

#### **PBGC Payment Dates**

Review the dates when direct deposit payments will be delivered and when paper checks, dated the first of the month, will be mailed.

# How Can We Help?

Get specific information for the choices below.

- I received a letter from PBGC
- . I want to apply for my PBGC benefit
- I want to change my address
- I need additional customer service
- . I want to change my federal tax withholding amount
- I received an Annual Funding Notice from my pension plan
- Lam tooking for a pension benefit from a former employer
- Lam worried my pension plan will end

#### New PBGC Customers - Verify Your Information

If PBGC recently trusteed your plan, you can download and complete the <u>Payee Information Form</u> (<u>also called the PIF or Form 701</u>) and return it to PBGC via <u>mail or fax</u>. You can also verify your information using <u>MyPBA</u>.

### Changes

#### Report a Death

How to report a death and to designate a beneficiary.

#### **Update Address or Other Personal Information**

Learn more how to update your name, address, telephone number, or email, or correct any inaccurate information PBGC may have about you.

#### Designate a Power of Attorney

How to name someone to act on your behalf.

#### **Forms for Workers and Retirees**

Download forms for certain PBGC transactions.



# MyPBA: PBGC's online tool to manage PBGC benefits

## MyPBA: My Pension Benefit Access

1 Help Keep Your Information Safe

Learn about protecting yourself from phishing emails.



MyPBA is **only** for individuals who are entitled to receive a PBGC benefit. If you represent an ongoing pension plan, go to <u>My PAA</u> to pay the premium.



For the best experience, please use Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome Questions? See the MyPBA FAQs.

Based on your feedback, PBGC has improved your online experience with extra security and easier access, partnering with Login.gov to protect your personal information when conducting business with PBGC online.

You are eligible for a MyPBA account if you are owed benefits from a <u>plan that has been trusteed by PBGC</u>. This includes customers currently receiving benefits as well as those entitled to future benefits.

New My Pension Benefit Access (MyPBA) account users must create a Login.gov account to gain access to the enhanced version of MyPBA. The Login.gov authentication security process is used to verify your identity and protect your personal information. Once you create your Login.gov account, it will take approximately 20 minutes for your new MyPBA account to be ready. When complete, you will be able to access your MyPBA account information. With this new account, your password will not expire.

#### Here's what you'll need to register:

- · Valid Email Address
- · Phone Number (mobile preferred)
- . Current State-Issued ID (picture of the front and the back)

#### Enjoy these benefits:

- · View your 1099-R tax form
- . Obtain a letter that verifies your PBGC income
- . Update your address, contact, and banking information
- . Update your federal tax withholding
- · Request a benefit estimate
- Apply for benefits

Looking for your 1099-R in MyPBA? Using a Chrome or Edge browser, navigate to the MyPBA homepage screen and then click on the "My 1099 form(s)" icon. This takes you to a page featuring "My Plans."

Check the square box next to the plan name(s) for the 1099(s) you want to download. Then click on the blue "Show selected tax forms" button to download your PDF tax form(s). For additional help, view our Download 1099 reference sheet

IRS Form 1099-R Distribution: Your IRS Form 1099-R, for benefits paid by PBGC, will be mailed to you through the U.S. Postal Service by January 31, 2024. Please allow time for delivery. Your IRS Form 1099-R will be available to download and print from MyPBA on or after February 2, 2024.



# PBGC en Español



# Bienvenidos al sitio de español de PBGC

PBGC traduce toda la correspondencia recibida de los clientes que este escrita en cualquier idioma que no sea el inglés.

Los clientes no necesitan traducir los documentos antes de enviarlos a PBGC.

Este sitio tiene información importante para trabajadores y jubilados. Para navegarlo, use el menú de arriba (barra azul) o alguna de las secciones de abajo. Visite el Glosario de Definiciones para familiarizarse con términos usados por PBGC.

Le recordamos que los clientes de PBGC pueden cambiar su preferencia de idioma y recibir correspondencia en español. Llame al Centro de Contacto al Cliente de PBGC (1-800-400-7242), presione 2 para español, y solicite un cambio de idioma.



### Nuevos Participantes

¿Es la primera vez que nos visita? Vea esta sección con información sobre su plan de pensión y recursos para ayudarle a administrar su beneficio.



# ¿Es PBGC responsable de mis beneficios?

El congreso ha establecido PBGC para proteger pensiones tradicionales, de beneficios definidos, que son patrocinadas por



#### Su Beneficio

Comenzar Beneficio

Información sobre tipos de anualidades, designación de beneficiarios, obtención de estimados de pensión, como comenzar beneficio o

#### ¿Cómo Podemos Ayudarle?

Recibí una carta de PBGC

Solicitar beneficios de pensión

Cambiar dirección e información personal

Cambiar retención de impuestos

Carta de "Annual Funding Notice"

Buscar pensión de un



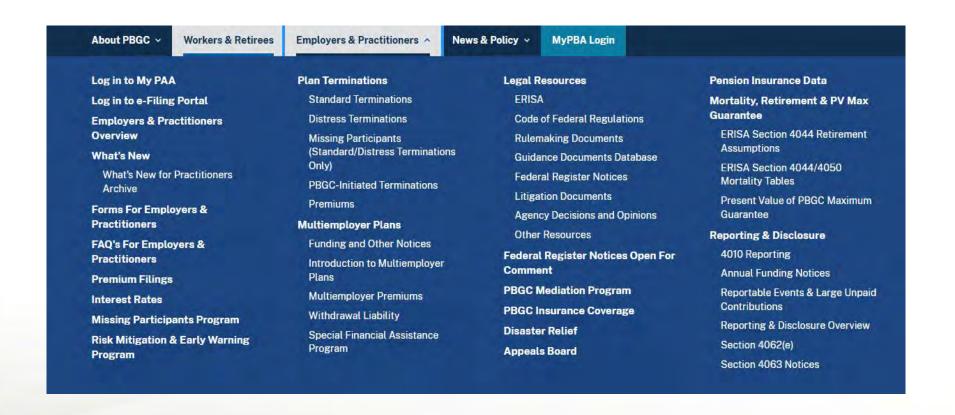
# **PBGC** information for Employers & Practitioners







# Additional PBGC.gov resources for Employers & Practitioners

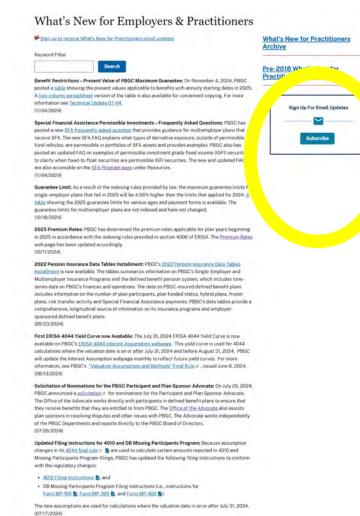




# What's New for Employers & Practitioners Alerts

What's New for Practitioners recent alerts on:

- Benefit Restrictions Present Value of PBGC Guarantee
- SFA Permissible Investments FAQs
- Guarantee Limit
- 2025 Premium Rates
- Pension Insurance Data Tables installment
- First ERISA 4044 Yield Curve now available
- Updated Filing Instructions for 4010 and DB Missing Participants Program

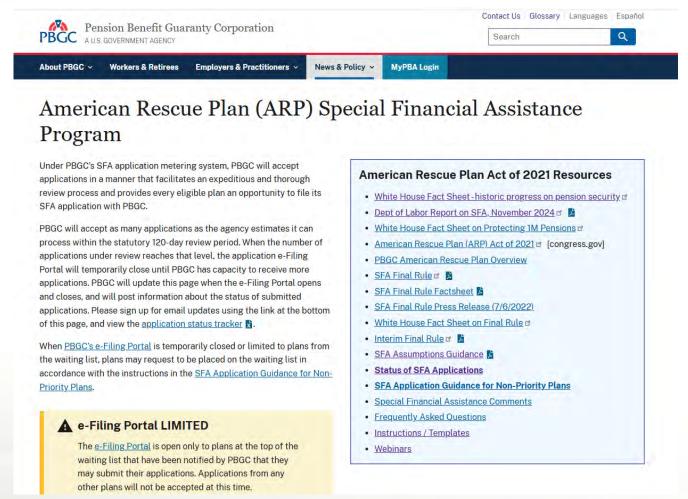


Special Financial Assistance Permissible Investments - Updated Frequently Asked Questions

**Pension Benefit** 

**Guaranty Corporation** 

# American Rescue Plan (ARP) Special Financial Assistance Program

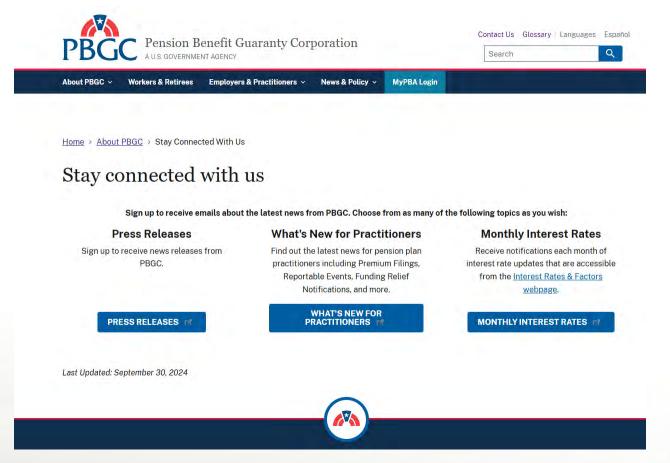






# **Stay connected with PBGC**

https://www.pbgc.gov/about/stay-connected





# **Annuity Forms and Guarantees**

PBGC

# **Annuity Forms in Trusteed Plans**

# Annuity starting date before the date of plan trusteeship:

- Validly elected annuity form including both plan's automatic and optional forms
- Includes complex annuity forms such as:
  - The normal single form which provides a "free" surviving spouse benefit in steel plans which generally only pays minimum amount of say, \$90 because the 50% benefit is offset by widow's social security benefits
  - Non-level benefits due to varying offsets
- Excludes non-de minimis lump sums, currently \$7,000, that were properly elected but not paid before trusteeship



# Annuity Forms in Trusteed Plans

# **Annuity starting date after trusteeship:**

- Plan's normal single form
- Plan's automatic married form If married, spouse must waive this form

# **PBGC Optional Forms**

- A straight-life annuity that provides fixed monthly benefits for life
- A 5-year, 10-year or 15-year certain-and-continuous annuity that provides fixed monthly benefits for life and the remaining payments to a designated beneficiary if death occurs before the end of the 5, 10 or 15-year period elected



# Annuity Forms in Trusteed Plans

# **Annuity starting date after trusteeship:**

# PBGC Optional Forms - continued

- A joint-and-survivor annuity that provides a fixed monthly benefits for life and, upon death, continues payments of 50%, 75% or 100% to the beneficiary for life. The benefit does not increase if the beneficiary dies before the participant.
- A joint-and-50% survivor "pop-up" annuity that differs from the joint-and-survivor annuity described above in that, if the beneficiary dies before the participant, the monthly benefit "pops-up" to the straight-life annuity amount.
- Optional lump sum if the lump-sum value of a benefit as of date of plan termination is (i) \$5,000 or less for plans terminating on and before December 31, 2023, or (ii) \$7,000 or less for plans terminating on and after January 1, 2024. Benefit may be paid as an annuity. Spousal consent is not generally required.



# **Permitted Beneficiaries**

# Permitted Beneficiary Designations for PBGC Optional Benefit Forms

- 1. Joint-life Forms. A participant may designate any living person as the contingent annuitant of an optional joint-life annuity form. The contingent annuitant may not be changed after the first payment date.
- 2. Certain-and-continuous annuities. A Payee may designate one or more living persons, an estate, a trust, a church, or other organization as the contingent annuitant of a Certain-and-Continuous Annuity. A payee who is receiving a certain-and-continuous annuity may change his/her contingent annuitant at any time, however, for a payee who was married at retirement a change of contingent annuitant is subject to spousal consent.





# ERISA §205(e) requires that a plan provide

- Survivor annuity for the life of the surviving spouse if a participant with a vested benefit dies before retirement
- Must be at least equal to the Qualified Joint Survivor Annuity (QJSA) benefit payable as if the participant had survived until retirement and died immediately thereafter
- May specify a minimum period (1 year or less) of marriage (PBGC ignores)

PBGC guarantees the Qualified Pre-Retirement Survivor Annuity (QPSA) to the extent that the underlying benefit is guaranteed.



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# **Guarantees – Death Benefits**

# **Pre- and Post-Retirement Lump Sum Death Benefits**

- Lump sum death benefits are not guaranteed.
- The present value of the pre-retirement lump sum death benefit in excess of the present value of the QPSA may be payable if the plan assets plus recoveries fund or partially fund all plan benefits.
- The present value of the post-retirement death benefit may be payable if the plan assets plus recoveries fund or partially fund all plan benefits.
- If so, the funded present value is converted to an annuity that increases the monthly benefit. Benefit is not paid as a lump sum death benefit.





# Thank you!





# OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE UPDATES

Pension Counseling and Information Program National Training

November 12, 2024



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## Office of the Advocate Refresher

## **Brief Overview and Main Duties (ERISA 4004)**

- Act as a liaison between participants, DB plan sponsors, and PBGC
- Assist participants and plan sponsors in resolving disputes with PBGC
- Identify areas where there are persistent problems and propose changes to administrative practices to mitigate such problems

**Annual Report** to Congress



# **Pension Plan Tracing Service Updates**

- Overview of the Tracing Service and how it can help participants
- Tracing Research Dashboard
- Other helpful resources



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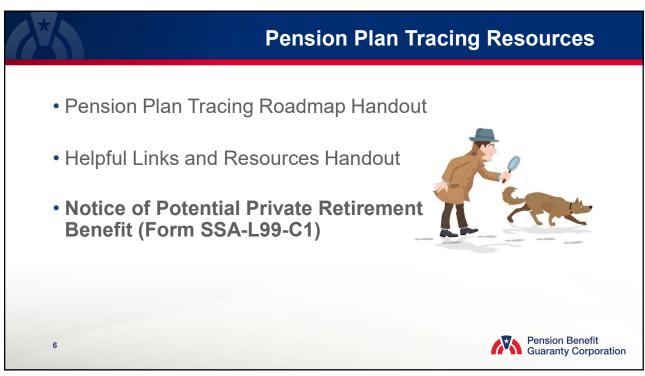


Pension Benefit
Guaranty Corporation

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### Pension Plan Tracing Service vs. Lost Plan Search Office of the Advocate's Pension Plan Tracing Service does *not* include: **Lost Plan Search** Broad corporate history research Determining likelihood of benefit entitlement Pension • Reaching out to plan sponsors or plan **Plan Tracing** administrators directly **Service** Defined contribution plan research Does include: Searching PBGC historical/current data to identify possible leads Pension Plan Tracing Service is one part of your larger lost plan search





## **How to Request Tracing Assistance**

### **Contact information**

Email: <u>Advocate@pbgc.gov</u>

## Information needed for tracing

- Plan name (and EIN/PN, if available)
- Name of former employer/plan sponsor
- Any corporate history research
- Participant's dates of employment

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## **Contact Information**

## Office of the Advocate

Hotline: (202) 229-4448

Email: <u>Advocate@pbgc.gov</u>
Website: www.pbgc.gov/Advocate

#### **Camille Castro**

Senior Associate Advocate

Castro.Camille@pbgc.gov

(202) 229-3310

### **Emily Spreiser**

Associate Advocate

Spreiser.Emily@pbgc.gov

(202) 229-5078

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

United States Code Annotated Title 29. Labor

Chapter 18. Employee Retirement Income Security Program (Refs & Annos)
Subchapter III. Plan Termination Insurance (Refs & Annos)
Subtitle A. Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

29 U.S.C.A. § 1304

§ 1304. Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate

Effective: July 6, 2012 Currentness

#### (a) In general

The board of directors of the corporation shall select a Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate from the candidates nominated by the advisory committee to the corporation under section 1302(h)(1) of this title and without regard to the provisions of Title 5 relating to appointments in the competitive service or Senior Executive Service.

#### (b) Duties

The Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate shall--

- (1) act as a liaison between the corporation, sponsors of defined benefit pension plans insured by the corporation, and participants in pension plans trusteed by the corporation;
- (2) advocate for the full attainment of the rights of participants in plans trusteed by the corporation;
- (3) assist pension plan sponsors and participants in resolving disputes with the corporation;
- (4) identify areas in which participants and plan sponsors have persistent problems in dealings with the corporation;
- (5) to the extent possible, propose changes in the administrative practices of the corporation to mitigate problems;
- (6) identify potential legislative changes which may be appropriate to mitigate problems; and
- (7) refer instances of fraud, waste, and abuse, and violations of law to the Office of the Inspector General of the corporation.

#### (c) Removal

If the Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate is removed from office or is transferred to another position or location within the corporation or the Department of Labor, the board of the <sup>1</sup> directors of the corporation shall communicate in writing the reasons for any such removal or transfer to Congress not less than 30 days before the removal or transfer. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a personnel action otherwise authorized by law, other than transfer or removal.

#### (d) Compensation

The annual rate of basic pay for the Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate shall be the same rate as the highest rate of basic pay established for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of Title 5, or, if the board of directors of the corporation so determines, at a rate fixed under section 9503 of such title.

#### (e) Annual report

#### (1) In general

Not later than December 31 of each calendar year, the Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate shall report to the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee of the Senate, the Committee on Finance of the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives on the activities of the Office of the Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate during the fiscal year ending during such calendar year.

#### (2) Content

Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall--

- (A) summarize the assistance requests received from participants and plan sponsors and describe the activities, and evaluate the effectiveness, of the Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate during the preceding year;
- (B) identify significant problems the Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate has identified;
- (C) include specific legislative and regulatory changes to address the problems; and
- (D) identify any actions taken to correct problems identified in any previous report.

#### (3) Concurrent submission

The Participant and Plan Sponsor Advocate shall submit a copy of each report to the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the corporation, and any other appropriate official at the same time such report is submitted to the committees of Congress under paragraph (1).

#### CREDIT(S)

(Pub.L. 93-406, Title IV, § 4004, as added Pub.L. 112-141, Div. D, Title II, § 40232(a), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 856.)

#### **Footnotes**

So in original. The word "the" probably should not appear.

29 U.S.C.A. § 1304, 29 USCA § 1304

Current through P.L. 118-106. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details.

**End of Document** 

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### <u>Pension Plan Tracing</u> Helpful Links and Resources

#### **PBGC Resources**

- Find unclaimed retirement benefits
- Tips for finding an unclaimed retirement benefit
- How to search for a defined benefit pension plan
- <u>Missing Participants Program Website</u> contains information on plans that transferred benefits to PBGC's Missing Participants Program and plans that purchased annuities
- <u>Important documents</u>
  - Social Security Administration Potential Private Retirement Benefit Information Notice - fillable request form
- Trusteed Pension Plan Search
- Plans Paying PBGC Premiums Search
- How to request a historical Summary Plan Description (SPD)
- Office of the Advocate's Pension Tracing Service
  - o Advocate@pbgc.gov

#### **Other Resources**

- Department of Labor (DOL) Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)
  - o Ask EBSA
  - 0 1-866-444-3272
- DOL Form 5500 Search
- FDIC BankFind Suite
- SEC EDGAR Search
- Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Collections
  - o DOL Office of Labor-Management Standards CBA Search
  - Historical CBA Database
- State business/corporate filings
  - Individual state websites
  - o OpenCorporates
- Google/Internet search
  - o Company Histories
  - o Company alumni websites
- Westlaw/Lexis Nexis
- National Organization of Life & Health Insurance Guaranty Associations

#### OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE'S PENSION PLAN TRACING ROADMAP

*Instructions*: Complete the following steps and check the listed search resources before seeking pension plan tracing assistance from the Office of the Advocate.

**STEP 1**: Does the client have any documentation regarding the pension plan and/or entitlement to a benefit? Examples include a notice of potential private retirement benefit from the Social Security Administration (SSA); a deferred vested letter; a summary plan description.

- > YES Continue to Step 2
- NO − Contact SSA to request the notice of potential private retirement benefit (Form SSA-L99-C1). See the Form SSA-L99-C1 fillable request letter

STEP 2: Is the plan a defined benefit or defined contribution plan?

- ➤ **DEFINED BENEFIT** Continue to Step 3
- ➤ **DEFINED CONTRIBUTION** Check <u>PBGC's unclaimed retirement benefit search</u> to see if the client has unclaimed benefits under <u>PBGC's Missing Participants Program</u> since the program covers defined contribution plans that terminated on or after January 1, 2018. If no information is found, contact or refer the client to the Department of Labor's <u>Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)</u> for assistance.

**STEP 3**: Is the defined benefit plan covered by PBGC's insurance program? Some private-sector defined benefit plans, such as certain small professional service employer plans, are exempt from PBGC coverage.

- > YES Continue to Step 4
- > NO Contact or refer the client to EBSA for assistance
- ➤ UNSURE Consult the PBGC Insurance Coverage website

STEP 4: Does the company/plan sponsor still exist?

- NO Continue to Step 5
- > YES Contact the company/plan sponsor and/or EBSA for assistance
- > UNSURE Search for the company/plan sponsor on the Plans Paying PBGC Premiums list

STEP 5: Did PBGC trustee the plan?

- NO Continue to Step 6
- > YES Contact PBGC's Customer Contact Center
- > UNSURE Search PBGC's Trusteed Plan list

STEP 6: © © Contact the Office of the Advocate at <a href="mailto:advocate@pbgc.gov">advocate@pbgc.gov</a> for tracing assistance!

- Include the plan name, plan sponsor name, other identifying information about the plan, such as employer identification number, in your tracing request email.
- Please also provide the client's years of employment and verify what documentation you have regarding the plan, such as the Form SSA-L99-C1.