

# **QDRO APPROVAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES**

## **AT&T Retirement Savings Plan** **BellSouth Savings and Security Plan**

Effective date of this document: February 28, 2025

**FOR ASSISTANCE CREATING A QDRO, GO TO:**

**\*\*\*\*\*[QDRO.FIDELITY.COM](http://QDRO.FIDELITY.COM)\*\*\*\*\***

A domestic relations order is an order signed by a Judge relating to the provision of alimony payments, marital property rights, or child support for the benefit of a spouse, former spouse, child, or other dependent of the Participant (“Alternate Payee”) made pursuant to a state domestic relations law.

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (the “Code”), and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, (“ERISA”), the Plan Administrator has established these QDRO Approval Guidelines and Procedures (“QDRO Guidelines”). These QDRO Guidelines are used by Fidelity Investments (“Fidelity”) to determine whether a domestic relations order (“Order”) relating to the above-mentioned plans (“Plans”) meets the requirements of a qualified domestic relations order (“QDRO”). The Plans will comply with the terms of an Order only if it meets the provisions of the Plans, the requirements of these QDRO Guidelines, and the requirements of a QDRO as established by law.

In the following sections, you will find the processing guidelines for determining the qualification of an Order and some discussion of Plan features and issues that should be considered in drafting a QDRO for the Plans. For a more detailed discussion of the various features of the Plans, please refer to the respective Prospectus/Summary Plan Description (“Prospectus/SPD”). See Section 9, “Contact Information” for information on how to obtain a copy of the applicable Plan’s Prospectus/SPD.

**NOTE:** Individuals seeking QDROs may not rely on the Plan Administrator, Fidelity or any employees or agents of the Plan Administrator or Fidelity for advice on which type or form of QDRO is most appropriate under any particular factual situation. The contents of these QDRO Guidelines are intended for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion. Further, the information contained in this document is subject to revision at any time based upon changes in the Plan language, federal law or at the direction of the Plan Administrator.

## **GETTING STARTED**

To get started, refer to the “**Checklist for Completing a QDRO**” on the following page. This checklist will take you step-by-step through the process of creating a QDRO.

Note that a domestic relations Order may be drafted in one of two ways:

- **Using Fidelity’s QDRO Center website, *or***
- **Manually**

1. **THE FIDELITY QDRO CENTER.** The Fidelity QDRO Center is a website that was created to assist individuals in the preparation of domestic relations orders and is tailored to meet the requirements of the Plan, ERISA and the Code. The Fidelity QDRO Center website provides immediate access to a Glossary of Terms, Frequently Asked Questions and the Plan's QDRO Approval Guidelines and Procedures (“QDRO Guidelines”).

**The advantages of using the Fidelity QDRO Center website to create an Order are as follows:**

- **quick and easy creation of a QDRO**
- **avoidance of common errors and omissions**
- **expeditious review of the Order**

The Fidelity QDRO Center may be accessed by going to **<https://qdro.fidelity.com>** (then registering as a user and logging in). Specific step-by-step questions will guide you through the Order creation process. Note: The Fidelity QDRO Center website is designed to assist in the creation of an Order. Use of the Fidelity QDRO Center website does not result in an automatic electronic submission of an Order to Fidelity. **Orders created using the Fidelity QDRO Center website must be printed out and executed by a court of competent jurisdiction prior to submission to Fidelity for review.**

2. **MANUALLY.** Any Order that is *not* drafted using Fidelity’s QDRO Center website *or* any Order that is drafted using Fidelity’s QDRO Center website but is subsequently altered is considered a manually drafted Order. Parties with uniquely complicated needs may choose to submit a manually drafted Order to Fidelity for review. Note that **Parties choosing to draft an Order manually may use the MODEL ORDER contained within this document.** (See Section 12, “Model Order”)

## **CHECKLIST FOR COMPLETING A QDRO**

- ☐ 1. **Determine the applicable Plan.**
- ☐ 2. **Verify the Participant has sufficient assets in the applicable Plan.**
- ☐ 3. **Determine whether you will be using Fidelity's QDRO Center website to draft your Order.**  
*The Fidelity QDRO Center website is tailored to the requirements of your Plan and is designed to simplify and expedite the qualification process. Visit <https://qdro.fidelity.com>.*
- ☐ 4. **Draft an Order.**
  - ☐ Web-generated Order – any Order generated from the Fidelity QDRO Center website.
  - ☐ Manual Order – any Order not generated via the Fidelity QDRO Center website, or any Order that is drafted using Fidelity's QDRO Center website but is subsequently altered.
- ☐ 5. **Submit the Order to a court for a judge's signature and obtain a Court Certified or True Copy of the Court-Executed Order.** (See Section 10, "Definition of Terms")
- ☐ 6. **Submit the Court Certified or True Copy of the Court-Executed Order to Fidelity at the address provided in Section 9, "Contact Information." The "QDRO Information Sheets" (See Section 11, "QDRO Information Sheets"), or the Addendum (if it is a web-generated Order) must be included with the submission of an Order.**
- ☐ 7. **You will receive an acknowledgement letter once Fidelity receives your Order for review.**  
(See Section 7.A, "Acknowledgement Letters")  
  
Note: Fidelity will acknowledge receipt of the Order in writing within 5 business days from the date of receipt.
- ☐ 8. **You will receive a determination letter either qualifying or non-qualifying the Order.**  
(See Sections 7.B, "Qualification of the Order" and 7.C, "Non-Qualification of the Order")

\*The timeframe for the review of *unaltered* web-generated Orders is typically 10 business days and 30 business days for manually created Orders. (See Section 5, "Timeframe for Review") Please note that after the timeframe for review of the Order is complete, additional time is required in order to segregate the award from the Participant's account(s) and establish an account in the Alternate Payee's name.

**NOTE:** If you receive a non-qualification letter, you will need to make the appropriate changes and begin the process again at Step 4.

# **QDRO APPROVAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES**

## **AT&T Retirement Savings Plan** **BellSouth Savings and Security Plan**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **WHY IS A QUALIFIED DOMESTIC RELATIONS ORDER NECESSARY?**

Federal law prohibits a participant in a qualified retirement plan from assigning or alienating the participant's interest in the plan. (See Section 206(d) of ERISA). However, an exception to this prohibition was created by the Retirement Equity Act of 1984 ("REA") for assignments of retirement benefits through a Qualified Domestic Relations Order ("QDRO").

A QDRO is a court order issued under a state's domestic relations law that:

- 1.) recognizes the right of an alternate payee (who must be either a spouse, former spouse, child or other dependent of a participant in an employee benefit plan) to receive all or part of the participant's vested interest in a tax-qualified retirement plan, and
- 2.) has been determined by the Plan Administrator to meet specific requirements of federal law and the provisions of the Plan. The requirements are contained in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and the Plan's QDRO Approval Guidelines and Procedures ("QDRO Guidelines").

Unless a court Order meets these requirements, it will not be considered a QDRO and the terms of the court Order cannot be enforced by the Plan(s).

For purposes of the Plan(s), a participant is considered to be married if the Participant is married to a person who is considered to be the Participant's spouse for federal income tax purposes.

## **2. BASIC ELEMENTS OF AN ORDER**

### **THE FOLLOWING SECTION OUTLINES ISSUES THAT EITHER MUST OR MAY BE ADDRESSED IN THE ORDER.**

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#### **A. PLAN NAME**

The Order **MUST** clearly specify the Plan to which it applies. A minor variation on the exact Plan name will be accepted if Fidelity can clearly determine the Plan to which the Order applies. The legal names of the Plans to which these QDRO Guidelines apply are:

- 1. AT&T Retirement Savings Plan**
- 2. BellSouth Savings and Security Plan**

**NOTE:** The Participant may obtain Plan-specific account information via [www.netbenefits.com/att](http://www.netbenefits.com/att). Alternatively, the Parties may obtain plan-specific Participant account information via a properly served court-ordered subpoena or notarized written authorization from the Participant. If you have any questions, please call the Fidelity Service Center at **1-800-416-2363**.

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#### **B. PARTICIPANT AND ALTERNATE PAYEE INFORMATION**

1. The Order **MUST** contain the following information (or be otherwise obtainable from Fidelity records). Any Order that does not contain this information **may** be **non-qualified**.

- **Full names of Participant and Alternate Payee**
- **Last known mailing addresses of Participant and Alternate Payee**

**NOTE:** *If the Order pertains to Child Support, the minor child(ren) **must** be named as the Alternate Payee(s). The Order **must** provide the name and address of the Alternate Payee's legal representative (i.e., guardian or a party acting in loco parentis).*

2. The Order **should** contain the following information. Failure to include this information with the Order will delay the distribution to the Alternate Payee but will **not** cause the Order to be non-qualified. Parties should provide dates of birth and social security numbers under separate cover using the QDRO Information Sheets included in these QDRO Guidelines (See Section 11, "QDRO Information Sheets"), or the Addendum if the Parties are submitting a web-generated Order.

- **Social security numbers for the Participant and Alternate Payee**
  - **Dates of birth for the Participant and the Alternate Payee**
  - **The Alternate Payee's relationship to the Participant**
-

## 2. BASIC ELEMENTS OF AN ORDER

### C. CORPORATE ACTIONS

The following table provides information regarding the mergers of various Former Plans and the earliest available Valuation Date associated with each Plan merger.

“Current Plan”	Effective Date of “Former Plan” merger	“Former Plan”	Earliest Available Valuation Date
<b>AT&amp;T Retirement Savings Plan</b>			<b>April 30, 2002</b>
	May 1, 2020	Appnexus 40(k) Plan	<b>January 8, 2016</b>
	December 31, 2019	Warner Media, LLC Savings Plan	<b>January 10, 1989</b>
	April 17, 2017	AT&T Savings and Security Plan* (Merger impacts only a portion of the Plan population)	<b>April 6, 2006</b>
	April 17, 2017	BellSouth Savings and Security Plan* (Merger impacts only a portion of the Plan population)	<b>April 30, 2002</b>
	January 1, 2017	DIRECTV 401(k) Savings Plan	<b>January 3, 2017</b>
	December 21, 2012	AT&T Long Term Savings and Security Plan	<b>October 1, 1999</b>
	October 24, 2011	AT&T Savings Plan	<b>April 6, 2006</b>
	December 31, 2008	Cingular Wireless 401(k) Savings Plan	<b>March 12, 2002</b>
	December 19, 2008	Dobson Communications Corp. 401(k) Plan (participants eligible to contribute to Cingular Wireless 401(k) Savings Plan on October 19, 2008)	<b>August 1, 2001</b>
	May 1, 2008	AT&T Retirement Savings and Profit Sharing Plan	<b>September 1, 1994</b>
	January 1, 2008	BellSouth Retirement Savings Plan (name change)	<b>April 30, 2002</b>
<b>BellSouth Savings &amp; Security Plan</b>			<b>April 30, 2002</b>

**NOTE:** Due to numerous Corporate Actions within the Plans, Fidelity may have account information prior to the earliest Valuation Date available under the Plans. Please contact the Fidelity Service Center at **1-800-416-2363** for further information.

**FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH PRIOR BALANCES IN THE FORMER PLANS IDENTIFIED ABOVE, PLEASE REFER TO THE INFORMATION BELOW ON HOW SEGREGATION OF THE ASSETS WILL BE HANDLED BASED ON THE VALUATION DATE STATED IN THE ORDER.**

**If the Valuation Date stated in the Order is PRIOR to the Merger Date noted above:**

- In the event an Order names **only** the “Former Plan” and specifies a Valuation Date **prior** to the relevant Merger Date noted above, assets from the previously existing balance in the “Former Plan,” if any, will determine the Alternate Payee’s award, and the award will be paid from assets in the “Current Plan.”
- In the event an Order names **only** the “Current Plan” and specifies a Valuation Date **prior** to the relevant Merger Date noted above, previously existing “Former Plan” balances, if any, **will not be included** in the determination of the Alternate Payee’s award.
- In the event an Order names **both** the “Current Plan” **and** “Former Plan” and specifies a Valuation Date **prior** to the relevant Merger Date noted above, previously existing “Former Plan” balances, if any, **will** be included in the determination of the Alternate Payee’s award, and the award will be paid from assets in the “Current Plan.”

**If the Valuation Date stated in the Order is SUBSEQUENT to the Merger Date noted above:**

- In the event an Order names **only** the “Former Plan” and specifies a Valuation Date **subsequent** to the relevant Merger Date noted above, the Order **will be non-qualified**.
- In the event an Order names either the “Current Plan,” or the “Current Plan” and the “Former Plan” and specifies a Valuation Date **subsequent** to the relevant Merger Date noted above, previously existing “Former Plan” balances, if any, **will be included** in the determination of the Alternate Payee’s award, unless the Order states otherwise.

**Please be advised that in all cases, the Alternate Payee’s award will be transferred proportionately from all standard plan investment options in the Participant’s Plan account(s) as of the date of account segregation.**

## 2. BASIC ELEMENTS OF AN ORDER

### D. VALUATION DATE

1. The Order should state a **single** Valuation Date to be used for determining the Alternate Payee's award.
2. In the event that the Order is **silent** regarding the Valuation Date, *the date of account segregation will be used* as the Valuation Date.
3. For the earliest Valuation Dates available for the Plans please refer to the chart in Section 2.C above.

**For the BellSouth Savings & Security Plan only, to the extent that Fidelity has access to accurate historical information regarding Participant account balances prior to Fidelity's earliest Valuation Date which was obtained from the prior recordkeeper, Fidelity will use the prior statements provided by the former recordkeeper for the purpose of calculating the Alternate Payee's award.** When account balance information is not available for the Valuation Date stated in the Order, Fidelity will use the closest previous Valuation Date available under the Plan.

Because of the potential for significant delays which may result from having to research historical account statements, Parties are encouraged to use Valuation Dates currently available on Fidelity's recordkeeping system for the purpose of determining the account balance to be divided in the BellSouth Savings & Security Plan.

4. Any Order that states a Valuation Date prior to the earliest historical Valuation Date available for the Plan, or any Order for which the Valuation Date is unclear will be **non-qualified**.

If the Parties wish to determine the Alternate Payee's award as of a date prior to the earliest Valuation Date available for the Plan, they must take the following actions:

- obtain the necessary plan account information from either their own records or those of the Plan's prior recordkeeper;
- calculate the specific dollar amount of the Alternate Payee's award, adjusting for earnings if applicable; and
- submit an Order that states the award as a flat dollar amount as calculated by the Parties.

### E. AMOUNT OF THE ALTERNATE PAYEE'S AWARD

1. The Order **must** assign the Alternate Payee *either*:

- a percentage or fraction, ***or***
- a specific dollar amount

of the Participant's ***total vested account balance*** (hereinafter referred to as 'account' or 'account balance') under the Plan as of the Valuation Date.

2. Any Order which contains an award which is not clear and calculable will be **non-qualified**.

**SAMPLE LANGUAGE:** To address this issue, one of the following sentences may be added to the Order:

- The Alternate Payee's interest in the Plan shall be \_\_\_\_% of the Participant's total vested account balance under the Plan as of the Valuation Date.
- The Alternate Payee's interest in the Plan shall be \$\_\_\_\_\_ of the Participant's total vested account balance under the Plan as of the Valuation Date.



## 2. BASIC ELEMENTS OF AN ORDER

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### F. EARNINGS

1. The Order should indicate whether the Alternate Payee's award will be subject to earnings (dividends, interest, gains and losses) *from the Valuation Date to the date of account segregation*.

Note: Earnings are calculated based on the Participant's investment elections from the Valuation Date to the date of account segregation. After the date of account segregation, earnings will be calculated (and posted to the Alternate Payee's account) based on the Alternate Payee's investment elections.

2. In the event that the Order is **silent** regarding this issue, the Alternate Payee **will not** be subject to earnings on his/her award *from the Valuation Date to the date of account segregation*.
3. If the Order states that the Alternate Payee's award is subject to earnings, earnings on the Alternate Payee's award will be calculated *from the Valuation Date to the date of account segregation* in accordance with the Plan's procedures for calculating earnings, and the Alternate Payee's award will be adjusted accordingly.
4. In all cases, after qualification of the Order and segregation of the award from the Participant's account into a separate account established for the Alternate Payee, the Alternate Payee's awarded amount will be subject to earnings (based upon the investments within the Alternate Payee's account) *from the date of account segregation to the date of distribution*.
5. Any Order which is **unclear** as to the treatment of earnings on the Alternate Payee's award will be **non-qualified**.
6. In the event the Participant has BrokerageLink, the self-directed brokerage investment option, earnings on the Alternate Payee's award will be calculated using the standardized calculation formula.

**SAMPLE LANGUAGE:** To address the issue of earnings, *one* of the following sentences may be added to the Order:

- The Alternate Payee's award **IS** subject to earnings (dividends, interest, gains and losses) from the Valuation Date to the date that the award is segregated from the Participant's account.
  - The Alternate Payee's award **IS NOT** subject to earnings (dividends, interest, gains and losses) from the Valuation Date to the date that the award is segregated from the Participant's account.
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## 2. BASIC ELEMENTS OF AN ORDER

### G. PARTICIPANT LOANS

1. The Order should indicate whether the value of any outstanding loans on the Valuation Date is to be included in determining the Alternate Payee's award.
2. In the event that the Order is **silent** regarding this issue, the value of the Participant loan balance(s) outstanding as of the Valuation Date specified in the Order **will not** be included in the Participant's Plan account balance(s) for purposes of calculating the account balance(s) to be divided.

<i>Example:</i>	• Participant's Total Vested Account Balance on Valuation Date:	\$100,000*
	• Participant's outstanding loan balance on Valuation Date:	\$ 10,000*
	• Alternate Payee's award, if defined in Order as 50% of the Participant's Vested Account Balance with <b><u>no mention of loans</u></b> :	\$ 50,000
	• Alternate Payee's award, if defined in Order as 50% of the Participant's Vested Account Balance <b><u>including loans</u></b> :	\$ 55,000

*\*Fidelity Participant statements report outstanding loan balances as a separate line item from the Total Vested Account Balance, which is the vested **liquid** balance in the Plan. A Participant's total interest in the Plan is the sum of the Total Vested Account Balance and the outstanding loan balance shown on the statement.*

3. The Alternate Payee's award will be paid from the non-loan assets of the Participant's Plan account(s).
4. If, as a result of an outstanding loan balance(s), the Participant's liquid balance (non-loan assets) is not sufficient to cover the required transaction to transfer the award to the Alternate Payee, the Order will be **non-qualified**.
5. Any Order which is **unclear** as to the treatment of loans in determining the Alternate Payee's award will be **non-qualified**.
6. There will be **no** transfer of the Participant's loan liability to the Alternate Payee. Any remaining loan balance(s), at the time of segregation of the award, will remain with the Participant. Any Order which attempts to assign loan liability to the Alternate Payee will be **non-qualified**.

**SAMPLE LANGUAGE:** To address the issue of loans, one of the following sentences may be added to the Order:

- In the event that there is an outstanding loan balance as of the Valuation Date, the outstanding loan balance **WILL** be included for purposes of calculating the account balance to be divided.
- In the event that there is an outstanding loan balance as of the Valuation Date, the outstanding loan balance **WILL NOT** be included for purposes of calculating the account balance to be divided.

### H. BENEFIT FORM

1. The Alternate Payee will have the right to select from among the benefit forms available to Alternate Payees under the terms of the Plan at the time that he/she becomes eligible and elects to receive a distribution.
2. If the Order is **silent** regarding this issue, the Alternate Payee will have the right to select the benefit form(s) at the time he/she becomes eligible and elects to receive a distribution.
3. Any Order which states otherwise will be **non-qualified**.

**SAMPLE LANGUAGE:** To address the benefit form, the following language may be added to the Order:

- The Alternate Payee will have the right to select from among the benefit forms available to Alternate Payees under the terms of the Plan at the time that he/she is eligible and elects to receive a distribution.

## **2. BASIC ELEMENTS OF AN ORDER**

### **I. COMMENCEMENT OF THE ALTERNATE PAYEE'S AWARD**

1. The Alternate Payee may initiate a distribution of his/her award as soon as administratively feasible following the qualification of the Order and segregation of the Alternate Payee's award, pursuant to the administrative procedures established for the Plans.
2. If the Order is **silent** regarding this issue, the Alternate Payee's interest in the Plan shall be payable as soon as administratively feasible following the qualification of the Order.
3. Any Order which states otherwise will be **non-qualified**.

**SAMPLE LANGUAGE:** To address the issue of commencement, the following sentence may be added to the Order:

- The Alternate Payee's interest in the Plan shall be payable as soon as administratively feasible following the qualification of the Order.

### **J. TRANSFER OF THE AWARD FROM THE PARTICIPANT'S PLAN ACCOUNT**

1. A Participant's Plan account may consist of standard plan options and a BrokerageLink account. A BrokerageLink account is a self-directed account within the defined contribution plan.
2. The Alternate Payee's award **must** be transferred proportionately from all standard plan investment options in the Participant's Plan account(s) (not including the BrokerageLink account) as of the date of account segregation. Orders that provide otherwise will be **non-qualified**. If there are insufficient funds in the standard plan investment options to satisfy the Alternate Payee's award, the liquidation of the Participant's BrokerageLink account will be effectuated first from the cash position, and then if needed, using a last in, first out methodology until sufficient assets have been obtained to satisfy the Alternate Payee's award.
3. The award **must** be transferred proportionately from all contribution sources in the Participant's Plan account(s) as of the Valuation Date. The Order **cannot** specify that the Alternate Payee's award be transferred from a specific contribution source (i.e., the after-tax source only). **Orders that provide for this will be non-qualified.** Pursuant to Section 72(m)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code, the tax cost basis of the investment options in the Participant's Plan account(s) **must** be transferred to the Alternate Payee proportionately from all contribution sources.

**SAMPLE LANGUAGE:** To address the issue of transfer, the following paragraph may be added to the Order:

- The Alternate Payee's award will be paid proportionally from all standard plan investment options in which the Participant's account is invested as of the date of segregation (not including BrokerageLink). In the event that the Participant has a BrokerageLink account and there are insufficient funds in the standard plan investment options in the Participant's Plan account balance to satisfy the Alternate Payee's award, the Participant's BrokerageLink account will be liquidated first from the cash position, and then if needed, using a last in, first out methodology until sufficient assets have been obtained to satisfy the Alternate Payee's award.

### **K. TAXATION**

An Alternate Payee who is a spouse or former spouse of the Participant is responsible for any taxes incurred upon distribution of benefits to the Alternate Payee. If the Alternate Payee is a child or dependent of the Participant, the Participant is responsible for taxes on such distribution. **The Order will be non-qualified if it states otherwise.** It is not possible to change federal taxation rules by agreement of the Parties in a Qualified Domestic Relations Order.

**SAMPLE LANGUAGE:** To address the issue of taxation, the following paragraph may be added to the Order:

- For the purposes of Sections 402 and 72 of the Internal Revenue Code, any Alternate Payee who is the spouse or former spouse of the Participant will be treated as distributee of any distributions or payments made to the Alternate Payee under the terms of this Order, and as such, will be required to pay the appropriate federal and/or state income taxes on such distribution. If the Alternate Payee is a child or other dependent of the Participant, the Participant will be responsible for any federal and/or state income taxes on such distribution.

## 2. BASIC ELEMENTS OF AN ORDER

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### L. DEATH OF ALTERNATE PAYEE

1. The Alternate Payee will have the right to designate a beneficiary. After the qualification of an Order, in the event that the Alternate Payee dies without designating a beneficiary, or if both the beneficiary and the Alternate Payee die before the proceeds are issued, the Alternate Payee's award will be distributed in accordance with the terms of the Plan.
2. All beneficiary designation(s) **must** be made after qualification of the Order and segregation of a separate account for the Alternate Payee pursuant to the administrative procedures established for the Plan and **cannot be accepted in the Order**. *NOTE: Any actual beneficiary designation(s) contained within the Order will be disregarded, but will not cause the Order to be non-qualified.*

**SAMPLE LANGUAGE:** To address the death of the Alternate Payee, the following paragraph may be added to the Order:

- The Alternate Payee has the right to designate a beneficiary. After the qualification of this Order, if the Alternate Payee dies without designating a beneficiary, or if both the beneficiary and the Alternate Payee die before the proceeds are issued, the Alternate Payee's award will be distributed in accordance with the terms of the Plan.
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### M. DEATH OF PARTICIPANT

The death of the Participant after the qualification of the Order **will not** affect the Alternate Payee's right to his/her award.

**SAMPLE LANGUAGE:** To address the death of the Participant, the following sentence may be added to the Order:

- The death of the Participant after the qualification of the Order will not affect the Alternate Payee's right to his/her award.
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### N. ODRO/BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION COORDINATION

1. Any language in the Order which attempts to divest the Alternate Payee of all right, title and interest in the Participant's Plan account(s), or waiving such right and interest (with the exception of the amount awarded under the Order), **will be disregarded**.
  2. All beneficiary designations must be properly submitted by the Participant pursuant to the beneficiary designation procedures under the Plan(s), and will be honored regardless of who is named as the beneficiary in the Order. **Any beneficiary designation contained in the Order will be disregarded**. The Participant will be advised that he/she can designate a new beneficiary (or re-designate the Alternate Payee if desired) through the Fidelity Service Center.
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## **2. BASIC ELEMENTS OF AN ORDER**

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### **O. POSTHUMOUS ORDERS**

In general, an Order must be determined to be a QDRO prior to the death of a Plan participant and/or alternate payee. However, Fidelity will review an Order after the death of either the Participant or Alternate Payee where the following criteria are met:

1. The awarded benefit is available in the Plan at the time the Order was received;
  2. The Order is in compliance with the QDRO requirements of ERISA, the Code, and the Plan's QDRO Approval Guidelines;
  3. The awarded benefit is not payable to another survivor, beneficiary or Alternate Payee at the time of the Participant's death.
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### **P. ADDITIONAL REASONS FOR REJECTION**

An Order that fails to meet the federal statutes (i.e., ERISA and the Code) and the AT&T Services, Inc. QDRO Approval Guidelines will be determined to be **non-qualified**. In addition to the requirements previously identified in this Section, an Order will be non-qualified if any of the following deficiencies are contained within the document:

- The Order contains contradictory provisions;
  - The Order specifies improper allocation of taxation on distribution;
  - The Order is unclear on what, how or when to pay the Alternate Payee;
  - The Order specifies that the Plan(s) pay attorney's and/or court fees;
  - The Order requires payment to an assignee other than the Alternate Payee;
  - The Order assigns to the Alternate Payee monies that have already been paid out from the Plan(s) to the Participant;
  - The Order requires payment to the Alternate Payee of benefits forfeited by the Participant;
  - The Participant has no vested benefit entitlement in the Plan(s) as of the specified Valuation Date;
  - The Order can be construed to improperly bind the Plan(s);
  - The Order is not executed by a U.S. state court (or other U.S. court having proper jurisdiction).
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### **3. ORDERS ACCEPTED FOR REVIEW**

Fidelity must receive an **original or photocopy** of either a Court Certified or True Copy of a Court-Executed Order that has been determined to be qualified before the terms of the Order can be honored. (See Section 10, “Definition of Terms”)

#### **A. ORDERS ACCEPTED FOR REVIEW**

**The following Orders may be submitted to Fidelity for review:**

1. **Any Court-Executed Order** (as defined in Section 10, “Definition of Terms”)
2. **A signed Order or Notice from a state child support enforcement agency**
3. **A Draft Amended Order** (as defined in Section 10, “Definition of Terms”)

**NOTE:** After a Draft Amended Order has been reviewed, the next Order submitted for review **MUST** be a Court-Executed Order.

4. **A Court-Executed or Draft Amended Combination Order** (as defined in Section 10, “Definition of Terms”)

**NOTE:** Each individual Plan named in the Order must qualify under the appropriate set of QDRO Guidelines for the Order to be considered qualified. Therefore, the parties may find it preferable to enter a separate Order for each Plan from which benefits are sought to be assigned to the Alternate Payee.

**NOTE:** Along with your Order, please submit a completed copy of the attached **“QDRO Information Sheets”** (See Section 11, “Forms”), or the Addendum if it is a web-generated Order.

#### **B. ORDERS NOT ACCEPTED FOR REVIEW**

**The following Orders will NOT be reviewed:**

1. **An Initial Draft Order** (as defined in Section 10, “Definition of Terms”)

**NOTE:** An Initial Draft Order will **not** be considered sufficient notification to the Plan(s) of the Alternate Payee’s interest.

2. **An Order that references a Plan sponsored by AT&T Services, Inc. for which Fidelity does not provide QDRO review and qualification services.**

**NOTE:** Such an Order will be returned to the sender.

#### **C. COMBINATION ORDERS**

A Combination Order is an Order naming two or more Defined Benefit and/or Defined Contribution Plans sponsored by the same Plan sponsor for which Fidelity provides QDRO qualification services. If the Order does reference more than one employee benefit plan, then each individual plan must qualify under the QDRO Guidelines before the Order can be considered qualified.

If an Order is received naming *both* an employee benefit Plan sponsored by AT&T Services, Inc. for which Fidelity provides QDRO review and qualification service *and* an employee benefit plan for which Fidelity does **not** provide QDRO review and qualification service, then Fidelity will **ONLY** review the Order as it pertains to the Plan for which Fidelity provides QDRO review and qualification service. The Parties may find it preferable to enter a separate Order for each Plan from which benefits are sought to be assigned to the Alternate Payee.

## **4. ORDER REVIEW FEES**

### **A FEE IS ASSESSED FOR ORDERS REVIEWED BY FIDELITY**

- A. In accordance with D.O.L. Field Assistance Bulletin 2003-3, for defined contribution Orders received by Fidelity **on and after January 1, 2007**, the fee for the review to determine whether the Order is a 'Qualified Domestic Relations Order' will be assessed to the Participant and/or Alternate Payee.

#### **The Order review fees are:**

##### **For the AT&T Retirement Savings Plan:**

- \$ 300 for the review of Orders generated via Fidelity's QDRO Center website **with no material modifications**;
- \$ 600 for the review of Orders **not** generated via Fidelity's QDRO Center website;
- \$ 600 for the review of Orders generated via Fidelity's QDRO Center website **but then materially altered**.

##### **For the BellSouth Savings and Security Plan:**

- \$ 200 for the review of Orders

##### **For Orders Referencing Two or More Plans (Combination Orders):**

For an Order referencing two (2) or more defined contribution Plans identified above, the Order review fee assessed to the parties is based on the applicable fee for each Plan referenced in the Order. For example, if an Order references the AT&T Retirement Savings Plan and the BellSouth Savings and Security Plan, the fee assessed to the Parties shall be \$800 (\$600 from the AT&T Retirement Savings Plan and \$200 from the BellSouth Savings and Security Plan).

For an Order referencing one or more of the plans referenced above, as well as the AT&T Savings and Security Plan, the Order review fee assessed to the parties is based on the applicable fee for each plan referenced above in the Order.

- B. Please be advised of the following information related to the assessment of the Order review fee:

1. The Order may specify the fee allocation between the Participant and the Alternate Payee.
2. If an initial Order is submitted and determined to be non-qualified, the Plan will charge 100% of the QDRO determination fee to the Participant's account balance upon completion of the review of the initial Order. Following the qualification of a subsequent amended Order, a fee adjustment will be processed so that the fee will be taken 50% from the Participant's account and 50% from the Alternate Payee's account, unless the qualified amended Order states otherwise, and provided there are sufficient funds in both accounts to divide the fee in this manner.
3. If the initial Order is qualified on first review, and the Order does not specify the fee allocation between the Participant and the Alternate Payee, **or if the language in the Order is unclear** regarding the allocation of the review fee between the Participant and the Alternate Payee, the Plan will assess the fee 50% from the Participant's account and 50% from the Alternate Payee's account, provided there are sufficient funds in both accounts to divide the fee in this manner.
4. If, following the qualification of an Order, the segregation of the Participant's account and the establishment of an account in the Alternate Payee's name, the Participant's remaining total vested account balance is insufficient to pay the amount of the QDRO determination fee assigned to the Participant, the amount of the fee assigned to the Participant will be taken from the Participant's account to the extent possible and the balance of the fee will be assessed to the Alternate Payee's account. Likewise, if the Alternate Payee's total vested account balance is insufficient to pay the amount of the QDRO determination fee assigned to the Alternate Payee, the amount of the fee assigned to the Alternate Payee will be taken from the Alternate Payee's account to the extent possible and the balance of the fee will be assessed to the Participant's account.
5. The fee will be taken from the investment options in the applicable account(s) according to the plan level fee method in effect as of the date the fee is deducted.
6. The fee adjustment, if applicable, will be a current transaction as of the date of the adjustment.
7. In the event that the Participant's total vested account balance is determined to be less than or equal to **\$2,000.00** as of the date that the Order is received, the parties will be informed in writing that the QDRO determination fee may potentially liquidate the account. The parties will be given **45 days** to withdraw the submitted Order and to request that Fidelity not continue with its review of the Order. **Note that all requests to discontinue the review of the submitted Order must be signed by both parties and notarized.**

## 5. TIMEFRAME FOR REVIEW

### HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FIDELITY TO REVIEW MY ORDER?

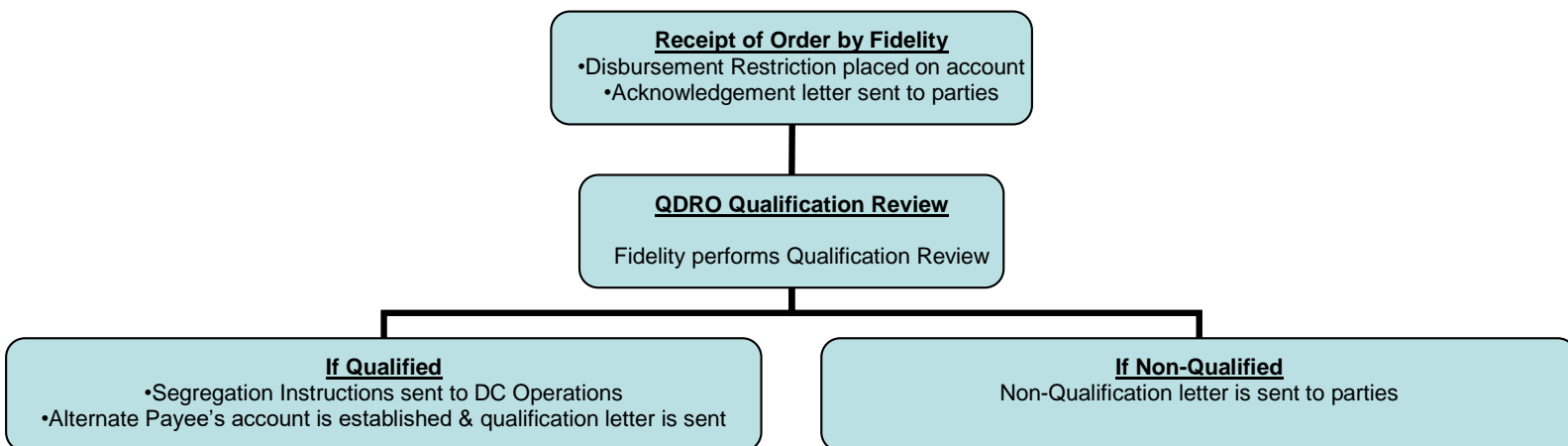
Pursuant to ERISA and the Code, Fidelity will advise the Parties, in writing, within a reasonable period of time as to the Order's qualification or non-qualification.

Typically, Fidelity determines the qualification or non-qualification of an Order within ***10 business days*** for Orders generated from the Fidelity QDRO Center website (which have not been altered) and within ***30 business days*** for Orders not generated from the Fidelity QDRO Center website *or* for Orders generated from the Fidelity QDRO Center website but subsequently altered.

Additional time is required in order to segregate the award from the Participant's account(s) and establish an account in the Alternate Payee's name.

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### FLOW CHART OF ORDER REVIEW PROCESS





## **6. DISBURSEMENT RESTRICTIONS**

Upon placement of a disbursement restriction and until the disbursement restriction is removed, the Participant (or Alternate Payee, if applicable) will be unable to initiate loans, withdrawals or distributions from his/her account(s). However, if currently eligible, the Participant (or Alternate Payee, if applicable) may continue to direct the investment of future contributions and existing balances.

### **A. PLACEMENT OF DISBURSEMENT RESTRICTIONS**

1. Fidelity **will** place a 100% disbursement restriction on the Participant's Plan account(s) (and/or the Alternate Payee's account(s), if applicable) upon receipt of the following:

- **A Court-Executed Order**
- **A Court-Executed Amended Order**
- **A Joinder** (See number 3 below)
- **Written direction from the Plan Sponsor**
- **A letter of Dispute** (See Section 8, "Disputes")

**NOTE:** If Fidelity receives one of the above-referenced documents and the document is unclear with respect to the Plan(s) to which it applies, **a disbursement restriction will be placed on each of the Participant's Plan accounts for which Fidelity provides QDRO review and qualification services as appropriate.**

2. Fidelity will **not** place a disbursement restriction on the Participant's account(s) upon receipt of an Initial Draft Order, and an Initial Draft Order will **not** be considered sufficient notification to the Plan(s) of the Alternate Payee's interest.
3. Upon receipt of a Joinder that references the Plan(s), Fidelity will acknowledge receipt of the Joinder by completing the "Notice of Appearance and Response of Employee Benefit Plan," the "Notice and Acknowledgment of Receipt," if applicable, and "Proof of Service."

### **B. REMOVAL OF DISBURSEMENT RESTRICTIONS**

A disbursement restriction **will remain** on a Participant's Plan account(s) (and/or the Alternate Payee's account(s), if applicable) until **one** of the following occurs:

1. Receipt of a Court Order directing the removal of the restriction on the Plan; or
2. Receipt of a Court Order vacating a previously received Court-Executed Order, the receipt of which caused the disbursement restriction to be originally placed on the Participant's account (s); or
3. The qualification of the Order, segregation of the award from the Participant's account(s), and the establishment of an account in the Alternate Payee's name; or
4. Receipt of a notarized document signed by the Alternate Payee, requesting the removal of the restriction from the Participant's Plan account(s) or receipt of a notarized document signed by the Participant, requesting the removal of the restriction from the Alternate Payee's account; or
5. The expiration of the **45-day** deadline to provide a Court-Executed Amended Order as a result of a dispute of a previously qualified Order (See Section 8, "Disputes"); or
6. Receipt of written direction from the Plan Sponsor; or
7. The expiration of the **18-month** deadline to provide a Court-Executed amended Order following the non-qualification of a Court-Executed Order submitted to Fidelity for review for qualification purposes and no other court-executed document is received.

## **7. WRITTEN NOTIFICATIONS**

### **A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTERS**

1. Fidelity will acknowledge receipt of all QDRO-related documents in writing to all Parties (provided that address information is available).
2. The acknowledgment letter will:
  - notify the Parties of Fidelity's receipt of the submitted document;
  - address any restrictions placed on the Participant's account(s) (and the Alternate Payee's account(s), if applicable);
  - address the timeframe for review; and
  - direct the Parties to the Fidelity Service Center or to the Fidelity QDRO Center website to obtain free copies of the QDRO Guidelines.
3. A free copy of these QDRO Guidelines will be provided to the Parties upon request. Parties may request a copy of the QDRO Guidelines by calling the Fidelity Service Center at **1-800-416-2363**. In addition, the QDRO Guidelines can be obtained through the Fidelity QDRO Center website (<https://qdro.fidelity.com>) or through NetBenefits ([www.netbenefits.com/att](http://www.netbenefits.com/att)).

### **B. QUALIFICATION OF THE ORDER**

1. Upon a determination that an Order is qualified, Fidelity will establish an account for the Alternate Payee.
2. Shortly after the determination that an Order is qualified, a qualification letter will be sent to the Parties. The Alternate Payee's qualification letter will contain information about the amount payable to the Alternate Payee. The letter will also contain instructions for contacting the Fidelity Service Center toll-free telephone line. The distribution of the Alternate Payee's account **must** be initiated in accordance with the administrative procedures that have been established for the Plan(s).
3. **Specific rollover and/or distribution instructions contained in the Order will be disregarded.** Rollover (and/or distribution) instructions cannot be accepted in the Order, but **must** be made pursuant to the administrative procedures of the Plan(s). Once the award is segregated and an account is established in the name of an Alternate Payee who is a spouse or former spouse of the Participant, the Alternate Payee may direct Fidelity to roll over the eligible portion of the award.

### **C. NON-QUALIFICATION OF THE ORDER**

1. If an Order does not meet the requirements of ERISA, the Code and these QDRO Guidelines, it will be non-qualified. The Parties will be notified, in writing, upon a determination that a Court-Executed Order or Draft Amended Order is non-qualified. The non-qualification letter will clearly identify and detail the deficiencies in the Order and will provide the necessary information to render the Order qualified, pursuant to these QDRO Guidelines.
2. Subsequent to the determination that a Court-Executed Order is non-qualified, one (1) Draft Amended Order may be provided to Fidelity for review. (See Section 10, "Definition of Terms")
3. Following the review of a Draft Amended Order, the next document submitted for review **MUST** be a Court-Executed Order. (See Section 10, "Definition of Terms")

## **8. DISPUTES**

**Dispute:** For purposes of these QDRO Guidelines, “dispute” shall mean that *after qualification of an Order*, one or more of the Parties are questioning the terms and/or the interpretation of the Qualified Domestic Relations Order or the amount awarded to the Alternate Payee pursuant to the Qualified Domestic Relations Order.

- A. Parties disputing a domestic relations Order qualified by *a party other than Fidelity* may contact the Fidelity Service Center to obtain the proper contact information.
- B. Parties disputing a domestic relations Order *qualified by Fidelity* should follow the procedures outlined below.

**NOTE:** The procedures below may not apply if either the Alternate Payee or the Participant has taken a distribution and Fidelity has complied with both the Order and these QDRO Guidelines, or if an Order has not yet been qualified. In such cases, the disputing party may need to seek relief outside the Plan(s).

1. The party disputing the award **MUST** notify Fidelity of the dispute in writing. The written letter of dispute should be sent to Fidelity at the address in Section 9.A.1, “Mailing Addresses.”
2. Upon receipt of a written letter of dispute, Fidelity will acknowledge receipt of the dispute in writing and will place **temporary disbursement restrictions** on both the Participant’s and the Alternate Payee’s account.
3. Fidelity will investigate the dispute and will send the Parties a written notice of the Plan’s determination with respect to whether Fidelity complied with the terms of the Order.
4. If Fidelity has not complied with the terms of the Order, the necessary corrective action will be taken.
5. If Fidelity has complied with the terms of the Order, the Parties will have **45 days** from the date of the determination notice to submit either a) a Court-Executed Amended Order that supersedes the disputed Order (or assigns an additional award to the Alternate Payee), or b) a court document demonstrating that the Parties intend to go to court with this matter. If a Court-Executed Amended Order or other appropriate court document is **not** received within **45 days**, the disbursement restrictions on the Participant’s and the Alternate Payee’s account will be removed and the terms of the original qualified Order will be honored. Alternatively, if a Court-Executed Amended Order or other appropriate court document **is** received within **45 days**, the disbursement restrictions on the Participant’s and the Alternate Payee’s account will remain until one of the conditions in Section 6.B, “Removal of Disbursement Restrictions” has been met.

The Court-Executed Amended Order must clearly indicate whether it is assigning an *additional* benefit or is intended to *supersede* the previously qualified Order. Accordingly, the Court-Executed Amended Order must do the following:

- ☐ Provide the name of the Plan to which it (and the previously qualified Order) applies;
- ☐ Correctly identify the previously qualified Order (by document name/title and date) to which the Court-Executed Amended Order applies;
- ☐ Clearly state whether the Court-Executed Amended Order is *assigning an additional benefit* or is intended to *supersede the previously qualified Order*.

## **9. CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Plan Administrator:** AT&T Services, Inc.

**Recordkeeper & QDRO Service Provider:** Fidelity Investments

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### **A. MAILING ADDRESSES**

**Fidelity Mailing Addresses:**

1. The following documents *associated with the qualification of Orders* should be sent to the Fidelity address in this Section A.1 below.
  - Court-Executed Orders (Order, Judgment, Decree, Property Settlement Agreement) (See Section 3.A, “Orders Accepted for Review” and Section 10, “Definition of Terms”)
  - Draft Amended Orders (See Section 3.A, “Orders Accepted for Review” and Section 10, “Definition of Terms”)
  - Joinders (See Section 6, “Disbursement Restrictions”)
  - Letters of Dispute (See Section 8, “Disputes”)

**Fidelity Investments  
QDRO Administration Group  
P.O. Box 770001  
Cincinnati, OH 45277-0066  
ATTN: AT&T Services, Inc.**

2. Subpoenas, Restraining Orders, written notification of address and/or name changes, and other *non-QDRO related correspondence* should be sent to the following Fidelity address:

**Fidelity Investments  
P.O. Box 770001  
Cincinnati, OH 45277-0065  
ATTN: AT&T Services, Inc. - Operations**

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### **B. PHONE NUMBERS**

General Plan questions, requests for a Plan’s Prospectus/SPD and questions pertaining to Orders previously qualified by a party *other than Fidelity* should be directed to the Fidelity Service Center:

**Fidelity Service Center Telephone Numbers:** **United States:** 1-800-416-2363  
**Hearing Impaired:** 1-888-343-0860  
**International:** Dial your country’s toll-free AT&T Direct Access number; then enter 1-800-416-2363

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### **C. FACSIMILE NUMBERS**

Parties may submit QDRO-related documents listed in A.1 above and written QDRO-related inquiries via facsimile. Fidelity’s QDRO Administration Group’s Facsimile Number: **1-877-665-4284**

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### **D. FIDELITY’S QDRO CENTER WEBSITE**

Basic information about QDROs and copies of the Plans’ QDRO Guidelines may be obtained through the Fidelity QDRO Center website: **<https://qd.ro.fidelity.com>**.

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## 10. DEFINITION OF TERMS

### A. TYPES OF ORDERS

- ❖ **Court-Executed Order**: An Order, Judgment, Decree or Property Settlement Agreement executed by a United States court of competent jurisdiction relating to the provision of child support, alimony payments, or marital property rights made pursuant to a state domestic relations law and filed with the appropriate court clerk's office.
- ❖ **Initial Draft Order**: An Order, Decree or Property Settlement Agreement relating to the provision of child support, alimony payments, or marital property rights that has not been executed by the court and is the first Order received by Fidelity in connection with the domestic relations proceeding.
- ❖ **Draft Amended Order**: An Order, Decree or Property Settlement Agreement relating to the provision of child support, alimony payments, or marital property rights that has not been executed by the court and is submitted to Fidelity after a Court-Executed Order has been determined to be non-qualified by Fidelity.
- ❖ **Combination Order**: An Order naming two or more Defined Benefit and/or Defined Contribution Plans sponsored by the same Plan sponsor for which Fidelity provides QDRO qualification services. If the Order does reference more than one employee benefit plan, then each individual plan must qualify under the QDRO Guidelines before the Order can be considered qualified.
- ❖ **Order**: A Court-Executed Order, Initial Draft Order, Draft Amended Order, or Combination Order (as defined above).
- ❖ **Court Certified Order or True Copy**: A Court-Executed Order containing either a) a court clerk's stamp or seal indicating the Order is a certified copy or a true copy and the signature of the judge (or other court official), or b) a file-stamp from the court clerk's office and the signature of the judge (or other court official).

### B. OTHER TERMS

- ❖ **Addendum**: An information sheet generated as an attachment to an Order created via Fidelity's QDRO Center website (<https://qdro.fidelity.com>). The Addendum contains the same information as the QDRO Information Sheets found in Section 11, "Forms" of these QDRO Guidelines.
- ❖ **Alternate Payee**: A spouse, former spouse, child or other dependent of a participant who is recognized by a Qualified Domestic Relations Order as having a right to be paid all, or a portion of, a Participant's plan benefit/account.
- ❖ **Joinder**: A state court issued legal document that results in the uniting of parties or claims in a single lawsuit.
- ❖ **Participant**: A member of an employer-sponsored qualified retirement plan.
- ❖ **Parties**: The Participant, Alternate Payee and their legal representatives.
- ❖ **Prospectus/Summary Plan Description**: A document that the Plan Administrator is required to provide to each participant and beneficiary receiving benefits that summarizes their rights and benefits along with the obligations of the Plan.
- ❖ **Valuation Date**: The date as of which the Participant's account is valued for purposes of calculating the Alternate Payee's award. Fidelity will use the ending balance at the close of that day if it is a day the New York Stock Exchange is open or, if not, will use the ending balance at the close of the previous business day.

## QDRO INFORMATION SHEET

Fidelity Investments  
QDRO Administration Group  
P.O. BOX 770001  
Cincinnati, OH 45277-0066  
ATTN: AT&T Services, Inc.

## 22

## 12. MODEL ORDER

### **ALTERNATE PAYEE INFORMATION**

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**ALTERNATE PAYEE ATTORNEY INFORMATION** *(if applicable)*

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## 12. MODEL ORDER

### CAUTION

A domestic relations order is an Order signed by a Judge relating to the provision of child support, alimony payments, or marital property rights made pursuant to a state domestic relations law.

The disposition of qualified plan benefits in domestic relations proceedings involves complex marital rights, legal and tax issues. The following is a Model Order that demonstrates one method of dividing plan benefits. Other methods are available and this Model Order may be inappropriate for your particular circumstances.

The following Order is a SAMPLE and is provided as a courtesy only. Neither AT&T Services, Inc. nor any of its subsidiaries, agents, employees or consultants, nor Fidelity, are authorized to give financial, tax or legal advice; and they make no representation as to the Model Order's sufficiency under applicable federal or state law or as to its legal consequences. You should not use this Model Order without consulting your financial, tax and/or legal advisors.

### Inclusion of Personal Data

Please be advised that some state courts prohibit the inclusion of certain personal information in court documents that will become public record. **The Parties may provide dates of birth and social security numbers under separate cover in the event that this information is not included in the Order.** Failure to include this information will not cause the Order to be non-qualified; however, it will delay the processing of the distribution to the Alternate Payee.

***NOTE: Parties may use the QDRO Information Sheets located on pages 22-23 of these QDRO Guidelines to supply this information to Fidelity.***

### Same-Gender Marriages

For purposes of the Plan(s), a participant is considered to be married if the Participant is married to a person who is considered to be the Participant's spouse for federal income tax purposes.

### Child Support Orders

Please see Section 2.B.1 of these QDRO Guidelines for additional information that would be required in an Order related to child support.



## 12. MODEL ORDER

Court of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_

Petitioner. \_\_\_\_\_ )  
and \_\_\_\_\_ ) CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Respondent. \_\_\_\_\_ ) STIPULATED QUALIFIED  
\_\_\_\_\_ ) DOMESTIC RELATIONS ORDER

WHEREAS this Court has jurisdiction over Petitioner and Respondent and the subject matter of this Order pursuant to *(insert appropriate citation of State domestic relations law and statute(s) relating to the provision of child support, alimony payments, or marital property rights)* \_\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_; and

WHEREAS Petitioner, Respondent and the Court intend that this Order shall be a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (hereinafter referred to as a "QDRO") as defined in Section 206(d)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA") and Section 414(p) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and,

WHEREAS Petitioner and Respondent have stipulated that the Court enter this Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED BY THE COURT as follows:

1. As used in this Order, the following terms shall apply:

- (a) **Participant** shall mean \_\_\_\_\_ (First / M.I. / Last)  
whose current address is \_\_\_\_\_ (Street Address/Apt #)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (City, State Zip Code)

*Please submit the Participant's Date of Birth and Social Security Number using the attached QDRO Information Sheets.*

- (b) **Alternate Payee** shall mean \_\_\_\_\_ (First / M.I. / Last)  
whose current address is \_\_\_\_\_ (Street Address/Apt #)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (City, State Zip Code)

*Please submit the Alternate Payee's Date of Birth and Social Security Number using the attached QDRO Information Sheets.*

- (c) **Plan** shall mean (*check one*): ☐ AT&T Retirement Savings Plan  
☐ BellSouth Savings and Security Plan

- (d) **Plan Administrator** shall mean **AT&T Services, Inc.**

- (e) **Valuation Date** shall mean \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY).  
(See Section 2.D of the QDRO Guidelines)

2. The Alternate Payee is the (*check one*): ☐ Spouse ☐ Former Spouse ☐ Dependent of the Participant.

## 12. MODEL ORDER

3. This Order relates to (*check one*): ☐ marital property rights. ☐ alimony payments. ☐ child support.
4. With respect to marital property, alimony or spousal support awards, the Participant and Alternate Payee are/were considered married for federal income tax purposes.
5. The Participant and Alternate Payee were married on \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY)  
and were legally separated/divorced on \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY).
6. The Alternate Payee's interest in the Plan shall be (*check and complete one*):  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert number*) % of the Participant's total vested account balance under the Plan as of the Valuation Date.  
☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert dollar amount*) of the Participant's total vested account balance under the Plan as of the Valuation Date.
7. The Alternate Payee's interest in the Plan shall be payable as soon as administratively feasible following the qualification of the Order. The Alternate Payee will have the right to select from among the benefit forms available to Alternate Payees under the terms of the Plan. The Alternate Payee shall initiate the distribution in accordance with the terms of the Plan and the administrative procedures that have been established by the Plan Administrator. The amount distributed to the Alternate Payee will be the value of the Alternate Payee's account on the date the distribution is processed.
8. The Alternate Payee's award will be paid proportionally from all standard plan investment options in which the Participant's account is invested as of the date of account segregation (not including BrokerageLink). In the event that the Participant has a BrokerageLink account and there are insufficient funds in the standard plan investment options in the Participant's Plan account balance to satisfy the Alternate Payee's award, the Participant's BrokerageLink account will be liquidated first from the cash position, and then if needed, using a last in, first out methodology until sufficient assets have been obtained to satisfy the Alternate Payee's award.
9. The Alternate Payee has the right to designate a beneficiary. After the qualification of this Order, if the Alternate Payee dies without designating a beneficiary, or if the beneficiary predeceases the Alternate Payee, the Alternate Payee's award will be distributed in accordance with the terms of the Plan. All beneficiary designations will be made after qualification of the Order and segregation of a separate account for the Alternate Payee pursuant to the administrative procedures established for the Plan.
10. The Alternate Payee's award (*check one*): ☐ **IS** ☐ **IS NOT** subject to earnings (dividends, interest, gains and losses) from the Valuation Date to the date that the award is segregated from the Participant's Plan account(s).
11. In the event that there is an outstanding loan balance as of the Valuation Date, the outstanding loan balance (*check one*): ☐ **WILL** ☐ **WILL NOT** be included for purposes of calculating the account balance to be divided.
12. Neither Party shall accept any benefits from the Plan which are the property of the other Party. In the event that the Plan Administrator inadvertently pays to the Participant any benefits that are assigned to the Alternate Payee pursuant to the terms of this Order, the Participant shall forthwith return such benefits to the Plan. In the event that the Plan Administrator inadvertently pays to the Alternate Payee any benefits that are not assigned to the Alternate Payee pursuant to the terms of this Order, the Alternate Payee shall forthwith return such benefits to the Plan.
13. The parties to this Order intend that it comply with the applicable provisions of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. Nothing in this Order shall require the Plan or the Plan Administrator to: (a) pay any benefits not permitted under ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code; (b) provide any type or form of benefit or any option not provided under the Plan; (c) provide increased benefits (determined on the basis of actuarial value) under the Plan; (d) pay benefits to the Alternate Payee which are required to be paid to another alternate payee under another order previously determined to be a QDRO; or (e) pay benefits to the Alternate Payee in the form of a qualified joint and survivor annuity for the lives of the Alternate Payee and his or her subsequent spouse.
14. For purposes of Sections 402 and 72 of the Internal Revenue Code, any Alternate Payee who is the spouse or former spouse of the Participant will be treated as the distributee of any distributions or payments made to the Alternate Payee under the terms of this Order, and as such, will be required to pay the appropriate federal and/or state income taxes on such distribution. If the Alternate Payee is a child or other dependent of the Participant, the Participant will be responsible for any federal and/or state income taxes on any such distribution.

## 12. MODEL ORDER

### 15. Electronic Communication (*check one*):

- ☐ The Parties consent to receive electronic communications concerning the status of the Order. Each Party must individually submit their own email address under separate cover. To accept electronic communications, each Party will be required to create a username and password to access the Voltage Secure Message Center. A link to the Voltage Secure Message Center will be provided via email. Once logged into the Voltage Secure Message Center, the Parties will be able to view correspondence sent by the Fidelity QDRO Administration Group. The Parties may request paper versions of correspondence. The Parties may withdraw their consent to receive electronic communications at any time by notifying the QDRO Administration Group in writing via fax or regular mail using the contact information provided in the Plan's QDRO Approval Guidelines and Procedures.
- ☐ The Parties **DO NOT** consent to receive electronic correspondence. Correspondence concerning the status of the Order will be sent according to the Plan's normal administrative procedures.

### 16. Order Review Fees (*check one*):

- ☐ The Participant is responsible for the one time determination fee for review of the Domestic Relations Order. The fee will be deducted from the Participant's account following the first review of the Order. The fee will be taken from the investment options in the applicable account(s) according to the plan level fee method in effect as of the date the fee is deducted.
- ☐ The Alternate Payee is responsible for the one time determination fee for review of the Domestic Relations Order. The fee will be deducted from the Alternate Payee's account after qualification of the Order and segregation of the Alternate Payee's award to a separate account in the Alternate Payee's name. The fee will be taken from the investment options in the applicable account(s) according to the plan level fee method in effect as of the date the fee is deducted.

If the Order is determined to be non-qualified following the first review, the determination fee will be allocated from the Participant's account. The Participant will be reimbursed, if applicable, from the Alternate Payee's account, following qualification of an amended Order. Such fee adjustment, if applicable, will be a current transaction as of the date of the adjustment.

- ☐ The one time determination fee for review of the Domestic Relations Order will be allocated 50% from the Participant's account and 50% from the Alternate Payee's account. The fee will be taken from the investment options in the applicable account(s) according to the plan level fee method in effect as of the date the fee is deducted.

If the Order is determined to be non-qualified following the first review, the determination fee will be allocated from the Participant's account. The Participant will be reimbursed, if applicable, from the Alternate Payee's account, following qualification of an amended Order. Such fee adjustment, if applicable, will be a current transaction as of the date of the adjustment.

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Judge of the Court Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Participant Signature** (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Alternate Payee Signature** (if applicable)

**Attorney for Petitioner** (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone)

**Attorney for Respondent** (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone)