The Survivor Benefit Plan
2023 Active Duty/Line of Duty Optional Annuity
for Dependent Children Elimination &
Annuity Reversion to Surviving Spouses

What Happens in 2023

*Please see our special focus webpage for FAQs: [https://www.dfas.mil/sbp2023childoptrev]*


This means for the surviving spouse of an Active Duty/Line of Duty member who requested to have the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity paid directly to an eligible dependent child or children, the annuity will revert to the surviving spouse beginning in 2023 (if she or he submits documentation and is eligible). The first SBP monthly annuity payment of the reversion will be on February 1, 2023.

Please note: The Optional Annuity for Dependent Children is only allowed when the service member died on active or inactive duty, in the line of duty, after October 7, 2001. This does NOT affect SBP payments for spouses or children of service members who retired prior to passing away.

If you are the SURVIVING SPOUSE of an Active Duty/Line of Duty member and you requested to have the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity paid directly to an eligible dependent child or children, here is what you need to do:

Fill out and return the completed eligibility packet DFAS mailed OR [download the packet from this webpage](https://www.dfas.mil/sbp2023childoptrev), fill it out and return the completed packet to DFAS as soon as possible. Specific instructions are included in the packet. If you are not sure if you are eligible, please fill out and return the eligibility packet so DFAS can research your eligibility. For surviving spouses who submit documentation and are eligible, the first SBP monthly annuity payment they will receive will be February 1, 2023.

For CHILD SBP ANNUITANTS who are currently receiving the SBP monthly annuity payment because the surviving spouse requested the “Optional Child Annuity,” here is what you need to know:

Your SBP monthly annuity payments will be suspended after your January 3, 2023 payment unless DFAS receives documentation that the surviving spouse is not eligible (deceased or not eligible due to remarriage before age 55). If DFAS receives documentation that the surviving spouse is not eligible, your SBP monthly annuity payments can continue as long as you are eligible. If DFAS receives documentation that the surviving spouse is eligible, the SBP monthly annuity payments will revert to the surviving spouse beginning February 1, 2023. DFAS will mail you information on the expected status of the 2023 SBP annuity during the summer of 2022.

Note: Dec 2022 SBP payments will be made on Jan 3, 2023. Jan 2023 payments will be made on Feb 1, 2023.
For CHILD SBP ANNUITANTS who are currently receiving the SBP monthly annuity payment because the surviving spouse requested the “Optional Child Annuity,” here is what you need to know:

As long as you remain eligible, you will continue to receive your SBP monthly annuity payments through January 3, 2023. At that time, the SBP monthly annuity payments will revert to the surviving spouse, if they are documented as eligible.

If DFAS receives documentation that the surviving spouse is not eligible (either the surviving spouse is deceased or not eligible due to remarriage before age 55), your SBP monthly annuity payments can continue (as long as you are eligible). DFAS will mail you information on the expected status of the 2023 SBP annuity during the summer of 2022.

If you are the SURVIVING SPOUSE of an Active Duty/Line of Duty member and you requested to have the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity paid directly to an eligible dependent child or children, here is what you need to know:

If an eligible child (or children) is currently receiving the SBP monthly annuity payments, they will continue to receive the SBP monthly payments through Jan. 3, 2023 (as long as they remain eligible). If the SBP annuity is currently suspended because the child is no longer eligible, it will remain suspended until your first payment on Feb. 1, 2023.

If you submit documentation to DFAS that shows you are eligible, you will receive your first SBP monthly annuity payment on Feb. 1, 2023. Please submit your documentation as soon as possible.

If you submit documentation to DFAS that shows you are not eligible, the eligible child can continue to receive the SBP annuity payments after Jan. 3, 2023.