

**TEACHERS' PENSION SCHEMES  
2017/10**

**WHO SHOULD READ:** Directors of Education and Finance  
HR Managers and Payroll Managers  
Teachers' Unions and representatives

**ACTION:** To read and circulate to all appropriate parties

**SUBJECT:** Unmarried Survivor Pensions on death in service

**The purpose of this circular is to provide clarification on:**

- Unmarried Survivor Pensions on death in service

This circular identifies the requirement for nominated partner status to be checked with the SPPA prior to any payment of short term pension by the employer when a member dies in service.

If a returned Death Application form indicates the surviving partner is a nominated partner this must be confirmed with SPPA prior to the employer paying out the short term pension. The underlying conditions shown below will be verified at this time.

Although the Supreme Court Ruling on 8 February 2017 confirmed that while there was no longer a mandatory requirement for a nomination form to be completed the underlying conditions were still required to be met to allow a nominated pension to be paid. Further information on this is contained in the Teachers' Pension Schemes Circular 2017/06.

The underlying conditions that must be met for a continuous period of at least 2 years are:

- The scheme member is able to marry, or form a civil partnership with their partner;
- The scheme member and partner are living with each other as if they were a married couple or civil partners;
- Neither the scheme member nor the partner is living with a third person as if they were a married couple or civil partners; and
- The member and partner are financially interdependent or the partner is financially dependent on the member.

These conditions must be proven to the SPPA before payment of any survivors benefits. Although a nomination form might have been completed this covers the death gratuity only.

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**Contact information**

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