Reemployment Rules for Investment Plan Members

Returning to work or providing services to a Florida Retirement System (FRS)-participating employer (see the definition of “FRS employment”) too soon after retirement could be a costly mistake. Read this brief flyer to be sure you don’t shortchange yourself in retirement.

What You Need to Know

If you return to FRS employment after retiring from the Investment Plan but before satisfying the required waiting period, any distributions you’re receiving may be temporarily suspended and you may have to repay any distributions you have already received.

When do I become an Investment Plan retiree?

You become an Investment Plan retiree once you terminate FRS employment with all FRS-participating employers and you take a distribution of any kind from the Investment Plan. Distributions include employee contributions, lump-sum payouts, annuities, and rollovers to other retirement plans.

Caution!

The reemployment laws are very complex, and returning to FRS employment too soon after you’ve retired may have significant financial consequences. Before taking any distribution from your Investment Plan account or returning to FRS employment, we strongly recommend you call the MyFRS Financial Guidance Line at 1-866-446-9377, Option 2.

FRS Employment Defined

FRS-participating employer or FRS employer: Any agency that participates in the Florida Retirement System.

FRS employment:

• Being actively employed by any FRS-participating employer in any capacity; and/or
• Providing any service to any FRS-participating employer through any arrangement (paid or unpaid), including OPS, adjunct, election poll work, temporary employment, or working through a third party that provides service to an FRS-participating employer, etc.

FRS-covered employment: A position that is eligible to be reported for FRS contributions.
When can an Investment Plan retiree return to FRS employment?

You can return to FRS employment at any time; however, returning within 12 calendar months of becoming an Investment Plan retiree may require you to repay any distributions received, as described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you are an Investment Plan retiree and return to FRS employment:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Within 6 Calendar Months</strong></td>
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<td>You (and possibly your employer) will be required to repay any distributions you received. To avoid repayment, wait a full six calendar months from the month you took your distribution or rollover to return. If you’ve already been rehired, terminate your employment and return after satisfying the six-calendar-month period.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>During Calendar Months 7 to 12</strong></td>
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<td>Any distributions you are receiving from the Investment Plan will stop until 12 calendar months have elapsed since you became an FRS retiree or you terminate all FRS employment.¹</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>After 12 Calendar Months</strong></td>
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<td>You will not be required to repay any prior distributions, and you may continue receiving distributions from the Investment Plan without interruption.</td>
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Want to know when you’ll reach the 6- and 12-calendar-month waiting periods?

View or download the comprehensive reemployment tables by visiting MyFRS.com. On the home page, click Retirees > Reemployment After Retirement > Reemployment Tables.

Can I join the Investment Plan again after I have retired from the FRS?

Yes. If you return to FRS-covered employment after taking an Investment Plan distribution (effective for reemployed service on or after July 1, 2017), you are considered a “reemployed retiree” or “renewed member.” As an Investment Plan renewed member, you are required to participate in the FRS Investment Plan.² Renewed members are not eligible to participate in the Pension Plan or DROP, receive disability benefits, or use the 2nd Election to switch to the Pension Plan.

Do these reemployment rules apply if I am hired by a non-FRS employer?

No. After becoming an FRS retiree, being hired by a private employer (must not provide any services to an FRS employer) or a non-FRS public employer³ will have no impact on your Investment Plan distributions (except for disability retirement — see below).

Would being rehired affect my FRS disability benefits?

Yes. You cannot receive FRS disability benefits if you are employed. Your FRS disability benefits will be terminated upon returning to work for any employer (includes private, non-FRS, and FRS-participating employers).

¹ If you are a retired law enforcement officer and you are reemployed as a school resource officer by an FRS-participating employer during calendar months 7 through 12 after your retirement date, you will receive both your salary and retirement benefits.

² Unless you are reemployed in a position eligible to participate in the State University System Optional Retirement Program or State Community College System Optional Retirement Program. See Section 121.122, Florida Statutes.

³ If you are retiring from an employer that no longer offers FRS membership to new employees and you plan to return to employment with this same employer after termination, please call the Division of Retirement at 1-866-446-9377, Option 3, to determine what reemployment restrictions apply.

This publication is a summary of the termination and reemployment provisions for the Florida Retirement System Investment Plan and is not intended to include every program detail. Complete details can be found in Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, the rules of the State Board of Administration of Florida in Title 19 and the Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, in Chapter 80-5, Florida Administrative Code, applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), and in the Investment Plan Summary Plan Description. In case of a conflict between the information in this publication and the statutes, rules, and IRC, the provisions of the statutes, rules, and IRC will control.

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