



THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
**JUSTICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

Post Office Box 1654 (32302)  
227 North Bronough Street, Suite 2100  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301



**Alton L. "Rip" Colvin, Jr.**  
Executive Director

(850) 488-2415  
Toll Free (866) 355-7902  
FAX (850) 488-8944

[www.justiceadmin.org](http://www.justiceadmin.org)

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**MEMORANDUM #028-14HR**

**TO:** Agency Administrators

**FROM:** Carolyn Horwich, Director of Human Resources

**VIA:** Rip Colvin, Executive Director

**RE:** **Fall Update** – FRS Information Release # 2014-173

**DATE:** November 17, 2014

The Division of Retirement has recently notified our office of some important changes that will affect all employees covered under the Florida Retirement System. These changes are being implemented to streamline how information is disseminated to employees and the agencies that administratively serve such employees. Please note the following updates:

**Member Annual Statements:**

The 2014 Member Annual Statements (MAS) are now available online at: [Florida Division of Retirement - FRS Online](#). **All current members of the FRS Pension Plan will now be required to log in to their FRS Online account to view and download their MAS.** The 2014 MAS has been redesigned to offer a comprehensive overview of Pension Plan benefits and information to aid members in their retirement planning. Vested members will also now be provided with an enhanced range of benefit estimates in their MAS.

The Division of Retirement will begin sending a series of e-mail notifications out to employees regarding their MAS. These e-mail notifications will be first mailed to those with an existing FRS Online account and then to those members without an established online account. A brief MAS summary and instructions on setting up their FRS Online Account will be provided to assist those members who have never established an online account. This is a great opportunity to encourage your employees to log into their FRS Online account or to establish their FRS Online account in order to view their MAS, review their current beneficiary designations, and review their retirement options.

Employees may also want to visit the division's website to access Pension Plan publications, forms, and links to other helpful resources. If your employees have any questions regarding their MAS, Pension Plan benefits, or creating their FRS Online account, they may e-mail the Division of Retirement at [calculations@dms.myflorida.com](mailto:calculations@dms.myflorida.com) or call toll free at 844-377-1888 or locally at (850) 907-6500.

### **FRS Bulletins:**

An e-mail notification will also be sent to all members when the 2014 FRS Bulletins become available online. Employees will have access to this annual publication under Retirement Newsletters at: [Publications - DMS](#).

### **Re-Organization of Division of Retirement's Contacts:**

The Division of Retirement has recently undergone a reorganization and has created a **centralized toll free number for all incoming calls** to the division. Instead of members and employers navigating the various duties of the division to determine the appropriate section to call, callers will have the following options:

#### Option 1: Retirees

Questions about retired members and their surviving beneficiaries receiving a monthly benefit, someone calling on behalf of a benefit recipient, Health Insurance Subsidy for Pension Plan retirees, insurance premium deductions for private plans, or state retiree insurance premiums.

#### Option 2: Survivor and Disability Benefits

- Press 1 to report a death or if you have questions about survivor benefits: or
- Press 2 for questions about disability retirement benefits, including the status of a disability application, an appeal, or the denial of disability retirement.

#### Option 3: Active Members and DROP Participants

Questions about the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for current members and members seeking information regarding DROP participation and future benefits. Questions from members who have not retired or have not begun receiving benefits, such as: service credit and total years of service, benefit estimates, refunds of employee contributions, changing beneficiaries, Investment Plan HIS, the reemployment restrictions and termination requirements.

#### Option 4: Employers:

- Press 1 for questions about payroll reporting and invoices.
- Press 2 for questions about membership class eligibility (Regular, Special Risk, Senior Management, and Elected Officers Class), FRS participation by an

agency (join/merger/transfer), Social Security coverage, evaluation of independent contractor status, volunteering, and assistance with FRS Online.

- Press 3 for questions about your employee's retirement accounts, including active and retired employees.

Option 5: Other Inquiries:

Anything that is not covered by the above options. Press 0 to repeat the above options.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information or changes please contact Jennifer Henderson at (850) 488-2415, ext 293 or via e-mail at: [RetirementCoordinator@justiceadmin.org](mailto:RetirementCoordinator@justiceadmin.org).