

CHAPTER 50

**SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN – CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY AND
REPORT OF EXISTENCE**5001 ANNUAL CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

500101. Purpose. The certificate validates continued eligibility of annuitants, whether eligible spouse, former spouse (spouse category), or children. The spouse, former spouse, and child must meet eligibility requirements in section 4401 of this volume.

500102. Frequency of Certification

A. Annually. Each year the eligible spouse, former spouse (spouse category), or custodian or legal fiduciary for a minor child must submit a certificate of eligibility to the DFAS-Denver Center.

B. Biennially. Every 2 years a medical certification must be submitted to the DFAS-Denver Center for an incapacitated child over 18 years of age, unless medical prognosis indicates the disability is permanent.

C. Other. A student between the ages of 18 and 22 must submit evidence of intent to continue study or training at a recognized educational institution. The certificate is required for the school semester or other period in which the school year is divided.

1. Payments to students continue during any interval between school years that does not exceed 150 days if those students demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the DFAS-Denver Center, that they have a bona fide intention of resuming or continuing a full-time course of study or training in a recognized educational institution immediately after that interval.

2. An eligible student annuitant under SBP properly enrolled in a recognized educational institution employing the usual quarter or semester system, who becomes ill or requires non-elective surgery during the school term, retains his or her student status for the rest of that term.

500103. Failure to Furnish Certificate. Annuity payments are suspended if the annuitant, custodian, or legal fiduciary fails to furnish the certificate as required. Payments are restarted only after receiving satisfactory proof of eligibility.

5002 REPORT OF EXISTENCE (ROE)

500201. Purpose. The ROE fulfills the requirement for report of existence for:

A. Annuitants who receive payment through foreign postal channels. The ROE is not required when the payment is addressed to a United States Consulate, American Embassy, military attache', or FPO or APO address. NOTE: Do not mail checks to an annuitant living in currency-blocked countries. See Appendix A for a list of blocked countries.

B. Mentally incompetent annuitants who receive payments through a third party.

C. Annuitants whose payments are sent to a third party, other than a financial institution for negotiation under a power of attorney.

500202. Frequency. An ROE is required on a "1 month behind" basis for those annuitants that meet the criteria of subparagraphs 500201.B and C, above, and semi-annually for annuitants in subparagraph 500201.A, above. The term "1 month behind," as defined in Appendix K, means a member's acknowledgement of the receipt of a check would permit the release of the check for the next month. Receipt of the certificate within the above-prescribed time frames after issuance of the annuity check verifies the annuitant's existence. Under no circumstances may the ROE be signed by other than the annuitant, custodian, or legal fiduciary.

500203. Failure to Return Report of Existence. Annuity payments are suspended if the annuitant, custodian, or legal fiduciary fails to return the ROE as required. Payments are restarted only after receiving satisfactory proof of existence.