

Surprise Local Police Board Reevaluation Process

The Surprise Local Boards may require a retired member receiving an accidental or ordinary disability pension to undergo periodic reevaluation of the continuation of disability benefits. Authority to conduct periodic reevaluations is prescribed at A.R.S. § 38-844(E). The process and criteria described below are guidelines and not binding on the Boards.

Process

1. The Local Board Secretary shall maintain a running spreadsheet of the disability pensions awarded – including the Date of Membership, Date of Retirement, Last Exam, Type, Date when 20 years of service is met, whether there is a possibility of recovery based on independent medical evaluation (“IME”) report (Yes or No).
2. The Local Board shall receive an update from the Local Board Secretary regarding the information maintained above once per year.
3. The Local Board shall consider the input of the Human Resources Department, which includes conference with Police Department management, when making a determination of whether to refer a member for an IME.
4. If a member is referred to an IME for reevaluation, the Local Board will receive the IME and determine whether any further action is necessary in a public meeting with appropriate notice to the member.

Criteria for Review

1. The Local Board may consider whether members receiving accidental disability pension should be referred for an IME up to one time every two years to determine whether member remains eligible for disability pension.
2. The Local Board may consider whether members receiving accidental disability pension should be referred for an IME upon receipt of information by the Board that the member may have sufficiently recovered. The Local Board shall provide the information to the member so that the member has an opportunity to respond to the information prior to the Local Board taking action on a recommendation for an IME.
3. Members will not be required to undergo IME within one (1) year of initial approval for accidental disability pension.
4. Members who will reach normal retirement within five (5) years of being awarded accidental disability pension shall not be considered for reevaluation.

The Local Board shall apply these criteria when deciding who to recommend for an IME to determine whether the member has sufficiently recovered. The Local Board shall clearly and in detail explain this process and the decision regarding recommendation for IME during a public meeting.

This process shall be uniformly and consistently applied to all members in similar circumstances. Local Board members will recuse themselves from any matter in which they have a conflict of interest, as defined under Arizona law, or if an appearance of impropriety may exist.