



October 2, 2026

RE: Proposed Amendment to Beneficiary Designation Rule

Dear Members,

At its regular meeting on Monday, September 28, 2026, the Board of Trustees (the “*Board*”) of the Austin Firefighters Retirement Fund (the “*Fund*”) adopted on first reading a proposed amendment to Section VI of the Fund Rules (the “*Rule*”) governing beneficiary designations (the “*Proposed Amendment*”). This letter summarizes the key changes, explains why they are being made, and describes next steps in the process.

Summary of the Proposed Amendment

The Proposed Amendment, which applies to all Group A active members and retirees, makes three principal changes to the Rule:

- Discontinues the ability to change beneficiary designations after retirement except in two limited situations: (1) a post-retirement marriage of a retiree or (2) a retiree’s youngest dependent child turning age 22;
- Invalidates existing beneficiary designation forms of certain active or retired members (1) who are currently married, (2) after the birth or adoption of a dependent child, or (3) that impermissibly name a current or former spouse; and
- Disregards all existing contingent (backup) beneficiary designations.

The Board is proposing these changes in order to: (1) avoid unexpected actuarial costs by ensuring survivor benefits operate consistently with how they are funded and valued at the time of retirement; (2) minimize IRS compliance risk; (3) eliminate the practice of delaying beneficiary changes to the detriment of the Fund; and (4) safeguard the integrity of beneficiary designations.

A summary of the Proposed Amendment in Q&A format and a redlined text of the Proposed Amendment is available for member comment on the Fund’s website at:

<https://www.afrfund.org/News/48/Proposed-Fund-Rules-Revision/news-detail/>

Next Steps

The Board will hold regular meetings on **October 19, 2026**, and **November 16, 2026**, and consider any comments on the Proposed Amendment. The Board will consider the Proposed Amendment for final adoption at its regular meeting in November. If adopted, the rule will take effect on **December 1, 2026**.

Beneficiary Changes Before December 1, 2026

Between now and December 1, 2026, unmarried Group A retirees may still submit a new beneficiary designation or change an existing one under the current Rule, subject to the applicable actuarial reduction. After December 1, 2026, no further changes will be permitted except in the two limited circumstances described above.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Fund office at (512) 454-9567 or staff@afrfund.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anumeha K", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anumeha Kumar
Executive Director