



San Bernardino County Employees'  
Retirement Association

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**POLICY NO.** 001  
**Committee:** Admin Committee

**Issue No.** 3-04.0  
**Effective Date:** 02/01/2018  
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**Policy Category:** Benefits  
**Approved.**

**Page(s)** 1

By:

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Chair of the Board

**Subject:** PAYMENT OF SURVIVORS' ALLOWANCES

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### PAYMENT OF SURVIVORS' ALLOWANCES

#### Background

Article 15.6 of the Government Code was added to the 1937 Act with the Legislative intent to allow counties with nonintegrated social security benefits to provide survivorship benefits outlined in the article in lieu of those provided by Social Security. The County Board of Supervisors adopted these provisions. In applying the benefit provisions of the article to survivors of qualified members, the criteria outlined in Section 31855.12 are followed.

It is the Board of Retirement's opinion that because the statutory provisions included in this section of the Government Code are intended to replace the survivor benefits otherwise paid by Social Security that payment of such benefits should be processed in a similar manner to that employed by the Social Security Administration.

#### Policy

When a member who has at least 18 months of continuous service dies prior to retirement, having a surviving spouse caring for a qualified child(ren) that also has another child(ren) not being cared for by the surviving spouse, the survivor benefits designed in Section 31855.12 will be paid in equal proportions to each of the deceased member's eligible beneficiaries, not to exceed the monthly allowance payable to the total number of all qualified children.