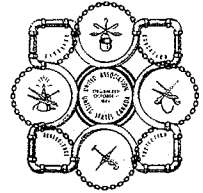


PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 501 NORTHERN ILLINOIS BENEFIT FUNDS



1295 Butterfield Rd., Aurora, IL 60502-8879 • Ph (630) 978-4600 • Fax (630) 978-4616 • email: benefitfunds@ualocal501.org

QUALIFIED DOMESTIC RELATIONS ORDER (QDRO)

NORTHERN ILLINOIS PENSION FUND and NORTHERN ILLINOIS RETIREMENT FUND

If you become divorced, a portion of your pension benefit may be assigned to your former spouse under the terms of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO). A QDRO is a court order that usually relates to a property settlement in a divorce. The QDRO may provide for a distribution to your former spouse of an assigned portion of your pension benefit from the Northern Illinois Pension Fund (Pension Fund) and/or a portion of your account in the Northern Illinois Retirement Fund (Retirement Fund).

The QDRO must satisfy certain legal requirements before it can be approved by the Pension and/or the Retirement Funds' attorney. Your (or your former spouse's) attorney must draft the QDRO(s) and forward them to the Fund Office by fax (630-978-4616), mail or e-mail.

The Fund Office will forward to the Funds' attorney a copy of your draft QDRO(s) for his approval. The Funds' attorney will send a letter to the representing attorney advising if the QDRO(s) are approved. (If corrections or modifications are needed, he will advise this in a letter.) Your attorney must then forward certified copies of the approved Orders to the Fund Office after they have been entered and certified with the Court.

Upon receiving the certified QDRO(s), the Fund Office will coordinate with the consultant for the Pension Fund and/or the representative for the Retirement Fund to separate your benefits(s) as required by the QDRO(s). Once complete, you and your former spouse will receive confirmation letters from the Fund Office. Please note: No pension/retirement benefits can be paid out to the participant or the former spouse unless the Pension Fund and Retirement Fund benefits have been separated according to the certified QDRO(s).

It should be noted that a former spouse must notify the Plan Administrator four months prior to their desired pension commencement date.

The Summary Plan Description of the Northern Illinois Pension Fund and the Northern Illinois Retirement Fund may be accessed through our website: www.ualocal501.org.