IN THE MONTANA	JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
	COUNTY
IN RE MARRIAGE OF:	) ) Cause No.:
Petitioner, and	) Dept. No: ) Judge:
Respondent.	<ul> <li>)</li> <li>) FAMILY LAW ORDER (FLO) FOR</li> <li>) DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS</li> <li>) PAYABLE BY THE MONTANA</li> <li>) TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (TRS)</li> </ul>

# This FLO Form A may be submitted only on the account of an ACTIVE or INACTIVE TRS MEMBER ("Participant" - not yet retired) and provides an ACTUARIALLY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT to the Alternate Payee (a monthly benefit payable for the lifetime of the Alternate Payee).

This Court, having entered a Final Decree and Dissolution of Marriage in the above-captioned proceeding on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, and having jurisdiction of the parties and subject matter hereof,

### **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

As authorized by §19-20-305, MCA, this Family Law Order (FLO) requires the Montana Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) to direct payment of a portion of a retirement benefit or refund of accumulated contributions, otherwise payable to the Participant, to the Alternate Payee. This FLO is issued, pursuant to Title 40, MCA, as a disposition of marital property.

# 1. THE PARTIES

A. Participant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is an active or inactive TRS member.

Participant's full legal name, address, social security number, phone number, and birth date are:

Name:		
Address:		
SSN:		
Phone number:		
Birth Date:		
B. Alternate Payee:		is the ex-spouse of the
Participant and is entitled	to a portion of the Participant's retirement benefit	or refunded accumulated
contributions as a disposit	ion of marital property.	
Alternate Payee's full	egal name, address, social security number, phone	e number, and birth date are:
Name:		

Address:

SSN:

Phone number:

Birth Date:

\* A copy of the Alternate Payee's birth certificate must be submitted to TRS with this FLO.

\_\_\_\_\_

# 2. ALTERNATE PAYEE'S RIGHT TO DISTRIBUTIONS

**A. Service, Early, or Disability Retirement Benefit**. If Participant receives a service, early, or disability retirement benefit, TRS shall transfer a portion of the Participant's normal form retirement benefit to the Alternate Payee, and shall actuarially adjust the transferred portion to pay a monthly benefit for the Alternate Payee's lifetime (hereinafter referred to as an "actuarially equivalent benefit").

- i. The portion of the normal form retirement benefit transferred to the Alternate Payee (mark/complete only one a or b):
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_will be \_\_\_\_\_%;
  - b. \_\_\_\_ will be calculated as \_\_\_\_\_ % multiplied by the number of years of creditable service earned by Participant during the term of the marriage divided by the total number of years of creditable service used to calculate Participant's benefit. The term of the marriage began on month: \_\_\_\_\_ day: \_\_\_\_\_ and ended:
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ on the date of divorce indicated on page 1, or
    - 2. \_\_\_\_ on the date of separation, month: \_\_\_\_\_\_ day: \_\_\_\_\_

year: \_\_\_\_\_.

- **ii.** The actuarially equivalent benefit will include a proportionate share of any guaranteed annual benefit adjustment applied to the Participant's benefit.
- **iii.** The portion of the Participant's normal form benefit transferred to the Alternate Payee will not revert to the Participant upon the death of the Alternate Payee.

**B. Death Benefit**. In the event of the Participant's death before retirement, TRS shall make a lump-sum distribution to the Alternate Payee of a portion of the Participant's accumulated contributions account balance. If the Participant is vested at the time of his/her death, the Alternate Payee may elect to receive an actuarially equivalent benefit in lieu of a lump-sum distribution of a portion of the accumulated contributions. The portion of the accumulated contributions or the actuarially equivalent benefit distributed to the Alternate Payee will be the percentage determined as described in (A).

**C. Withdrawal of Accumulated Contributions**. If the Participant withdraws his/her accumulated contributions from TRS, TRS shall make a lump-sum distribution to the Alternate Payee of a portion of the Participant's accumulated contributions account balance. The portion of the accumulated contributions account balance distributed to the Alternate Payee will be the percentage determined as described in (A).

**D.** Effect of Rights of Other Alternate Payee(s). TRS will give effect to the FLO rights of two or more alternate payees on the account of Participant in order of priority based on the date on which each FLO became effective with TRS. The requirement for any distribution to the Alternate Payee under this FLO is subject to reduction, including that no amount may be distributed to the Alternate Payee under this FLO, due to the prior right of any other Alternate Payee(s).

### 3. DURATION OF DISTRIBUTION TO ALTERNATE PAYEE

**A. Beginning Date of Distributions.** Distributions to the Alternate Payee required under this FLO will become payable on the date the terms of this FLO are given effect as described in section 5(B).

## B. Duration and Termination of Actuarially Equivalent Benefit - No Reversion to

**Participant.** In every case, an actuarially equivalent benefit payable to the Alternate Payee will terminate upon the death of the Alternate Payee. Once distributions to the Alternate Payee have begun, the portion of the Participant's normal form benefit distributed to the Alternate Payee as an actuarially equivalent benefit will not revert to the Participant upon the death of the Alternate Payee.

**C. Death of Alternate Payee before Distribution.** If the Alternate Payee is not authorized to designate a beneficiary under section 4(a)(ii) and dies before any distribution has been made pursuant to this FLO, this FLO shall be null and void.

**D.** No Distribution Required to Alternate Payee for Any Period Prior to Effective Date. The terms of this FLO will apply to the payment of any retirement benefit, death benefit, or withdrawal made on or after the effective date of this FLO, as described in 5(B). This FLO does not require, and TRS will not make, any distribution to the Alternate Payee for any amount paid prior to the effective date of this FLO, as described in 5(B).

**E.** Adjustment, Suspension or Termination of Benefits. If the benefit payable to or on behalf of the Participant is adjusted, suspended, or terminated by TRS for any reason, the distribution required to be made to the Alternate Payee will also be adjusted, suspended, or terminated as appropriate. If the Participant's benefit is suspended or terminated, at the time the benefit is reinstated, the distribution to the Alternate Payee will again be determined in conformity with this FLO.

# 4. DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY BY ALTERNATE PAYEE

- A. Designation of Beneficiary. The Alternate Payee (mark only one i or ii):
  - i. <u>May not</u> designate a beneficiary to receive, upon the Alternate Payee's death, any distribution that would otherwise be payable to the Alternate Payee under this FLO.
  - OR
  - ii. \_\_\_\_ May designate a beneficiary to receive a distribution otherwise payable to the Alternate Payee, subject to all of the following:
    - **a.** A beneficiary designated by the Alternate Payee shall only be eligible to receive a distribution otherwise payable to the Alternate Payee if the Alternate Payee dies before any distribution is made to the Alternate Payee pursuant to this FLO. Upon any distribution to the Alternate Payee, any beneficiary designation made by the Alternate Payee is null and void.
    - **b.** A beneficiary designated by the Alternate Payee is not eligible to receive any distribution payable to the Alternate Payee as an actuarially equivalent benefit. If a distribution is payable to a beneficiary designated by the Alternate Payee at the time this FLO is given effect, the designated beneficiary shall receive only a lump-sum distribution of a portion of the Participant's accumulated contributions account balance determined and paid as if the Participant elected to withdraw his/her accumulated contributions as described in section 2(C).
    - c. The Alternate Payee must designate a beneficiary using a form provided by TRS and in conformity with TRS requirements. If the Alternate Payee does not have a valid beneficiary designation on file with TRS or if the Alternate Payee's designated beneficiary does not survive at the time of the Alternate Payee's death, this FLO is revoked and shall be of no further force or effect. The portion of the benefit that

would have been payable to the Alternate Payee will revert to the Participant or to the Participant's joint annuitant or beneficiary then eligible to receive benefits.

**B.** No Other Transfer of Distribution Allowed. Except as expressly provided in (A), the Alternate Payee may not devise, bequeath, assign or otherwise transfer any right or interest in or to any distribution or to payment of any distribution payable to or on behalf of the Alternate Payee under this FLO. A beneficiary designated by the Alternate Payee may not devise, bequeath, assign or otherwise transfer any right or interest in or to any distribution or payment of any distribution payable to any distribution payable transfer.

#### 5. APPROVAL BY TRS / EFFECTIVE DATE OF FLO / FUTURE AMENDMENTS

**A. Approval by TRS.** One of the parties must provide TRS with a certified copy of this FLO and TRS must approve the FLO for content before the FLO is effective. In the event TRS finds this FLO does not meet all requirements to be given effect, TRS shall provide a statement of the deficiencies to the parties to the FLO. Upon TRS's identification of any deficiency, it is the obligation of the parties to ensure that a FLO that meets all TRS requirements is submitted to and entered by this Court, and then submitted to TRS. This Court retains jurisdiction to make any modifications necessary to ensure that the distribution of benefits required under this FLO is in compliance with all TRS requirements.

**B.** Effective Date of FLO. This FLO will be effective on the first day of the month following receipt and approval by TRS, and will be kept on-file by TRS until the terms of the FLO are to be given effect. The terms of this FLO will be given effect at such time, after the effective date of this FLO, that any retirement benefit, death benefit, or refund of accumulated contributions, as described in Section 2, becomes payable to or on behalf of the Participant.

**C. Future Amendments.** Except as provided in this FLO, this FLO may be modified or revoked only by subsequent order of this Court. This Court retains jurisdiction to make such modification or revocation.

**D.** Voluntary Renunciation by Alternate Payee. The Alternate Payee may, at any time before a distribution is made pursuant to this FLO, renounce the Alternate Payee's right to receive a distribution under this FLO by making a voluntary, written renunciation, with notarization, and filing the renunciation with this Court. A renunciation must be made on a form provided by TRS and must constitute a full renunciation of all right and interest of the Alternate Payee to any distribution under

this FLO; a renunciation may not otherwise modify or amend the terms of this FLO. A certified copy of the renunciation filed with this Court must be submitted to TRS and will be effective the first day of the month following receipt by TRS.

**E.** Effect of Death of Participant Prior to Effective Date of FLO. If, at the time this FLO is submitted to TRS, the Participant is deceased and benefits are then payable to the Participant's joint annuitant or beneficiary, TRS will not approve or give effect to this FLO. TRS will notify the Alternate Payee and the Participant's joint annuitant or beneficiary of the submission of the FLO and the reason for disapproval. TRS will then only approve and give effect to a FLO entered by this Court as an adjudication of the respective rights and interests of the Alternate Payee and the Participant's joint annuitant or beneficiary. The Alternate Payee will be responsible for obtaining the necessary court order.

#### 6. AUTHORIZATION TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION

TRS may receive from and disclose to either or both the Participant and the Alternate Payee any information necessary and appropriate to give effect to this FLO.

#### 7. <u>REQUIREMENT TO UPDATE CONTACT / BENEFICIARY INFORMATION</u>

The Alternate Payee will have the responsibility to maintain the Alternate Payee's current contact information with TRS and to ensure that a valid beneficiary designation is on file with TRS if the Alternate Payee is authorized to designate a beneficiary.

### 8. <u>CONSTRUCTION IN CONFORMITY WITH APPLICABLE LAW</u>

This FLO is intended to provide for a distribution of benefits to the Alternate Payee in conformity with all applicable laws, rules, and policies pertaining to the provision of benefits by TRS. It is not intended to provide additional rights or benefits to any party beyond those rights or benefits provided by TRS law. This FLO will be construed by TRS in such a manner as gives effect to all applicable statutes, rules, and policies, whether expressly referenced herein or not.

SO ORDERED this	day of	, 20
-----------------	--------	------

# DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Copies to:			
Attorney for Participant:			
Name:			
Firm:			
Address:			
Phone No.:			
Attorney for Alternate Payee:			
Name:			
Firm:			
Address:			
Phone No.:			