



## Look in your mailbox

For your convenience, a printed version of this newsletter is also being mailed to you.



## Are you filing a paper tax return?

The IRS encourages you to file your taxes electronically as soon as you have everything you need to file an accurate return. This is largely because it's convenient, secure, and you'll get your tax refund much faster than when filing a paper return.

However, if you are one of the 10% of taxpayers who prefer to file a paper return, you should know that the IRS offers a simplified option for seniors who are 65 or older and don't have a complicated tax return. The form is called the 1040-SR and features a larger typeface and bigger boxes to write numbers in, making it easier to read and fill out. Otherwise, it works just like the regular Form 1040. If you have questions about which tax forms are best for you to file, you can visit [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) or contact a qualified tax professional.



## Your 1099-R will be mailed and online

As a defined benefit retiree, you will receive a Form 1099-R issued by MERS. This form will be mailed by January 31, 2023, according to IRS requirements, and will also be available online.

If you are receiving a benefit from multiple employers, you will receive a Form 1099-R for each. Also, if you reached age 59½ in 2022, you will receive one Form 1099-R for the benefits you received before that date and one for the benefits you received after that date, to comply with IRS' coding requirements. This form will now be accessible online by January 31, 2023.

To retrieve your 1099-R online, log in to your myMERS account at [mersofmich.com](http://mersofmich.com) and select **"DB Monthly Pension"** from the **"Accounts"** section. Then from the options on the right side, select **"View 1099 Records"**.



# How to Read Your 1099-R From MERS

CORRECTED (if checked)

PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no.		<b>1</b> Gross distribution \$	OMB No. 1545-0119  <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2023</span> Form <b>1099-R</b>		<b>Distributions From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement or Profit-Sharing Plans, IRAs, Insurance Contracts, etc.</b>
		<b>2a</b> Taxable amount \$	Total distribution <input type="checkbox"/>		
PAYER'S TIN	RECIPIENT'S TIN	<b>3</b> Capital gain (included in box 2a) \$	<b>4</b> Federal income tax withheld \$		<b>Copy B</b> <b>Report this income on your federal tax return. If this form shows federal income tax withheld in box 4, attach this copy to your return.</b>  This information is being furnished to the IRS.
RECIPIENT'S name  Street address (including apt. no.)  City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code		<b>5</b> Employee contributions/ Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums \$	<b>6</b> Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities \$		
		<b>7</b> Distribution code(s) <table style="display: inline-table; border: none; margin-left: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;">IRA/SEP/SIMPLE</td> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	IRA/SEP/SIMPLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
IRA/SEP/SIMPLE	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>9a</b> Your percentage of total distribution %		<b>9b</b> Total employee contributions \$			
<b>10</b> Amount allocable to IRR within 5 years \$	<b>11</b> 1st year of desig. Roth contrib.	<b>12</b> FATCA filing requirement <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>14</b> State tax withheld \$	<b>15</b> State/Payer's state no.	<b>16</b> State distribution \$
Account number (see instructions)		<b>13</b> Date of payment	<b>17</b> Local tax withheld \$	<b>18</b> Name of locality	<b>19</b> Local distribution \$

Form **1099-R** www.irs.gov/Form1099R Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

**Box 1: Gross distribution** – The total retirement benefit (both taxable and non-taxable) paid to you for the calendar year, before any deductions.

**Box 2a: Taxable amount** – The portion of your retirement benefit that is taxable. If you made personal after-tax contributions to your defined benefit plan, this amount should equal Box 1 minus Box 5.

**Box 2b: Taxable amount not determined** – This box is checked if we were unable to verify the taxable amount because you were already retired when your former employer joined MERS.

**Box 4: Federal income tax withheld** – Amount of federal income tax withheld from your benefit in 2022.

**Box 5: Employee contributions/Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums** – If you made personal after-tax contributions to your defined benefit plan, this box shows the portion of those contributions you are allowed to claim for 2022. This is NOT Designated Roth contributions or insurance premiums.

**Box 7: Distribution code(s)** – The type of benefit you received. Code descriptions are found on the back of Form 1099-R. *Note: Retirees who had been receiving a disability retirement payment and have reached the normal retirement age for their plan may notice that their code has changed.*

**Box 9b: Total employee contributions** – If 2022 was the first calendar year that you received a retirement benefit payment, this box will show the total amount of personal after-tax contributions you made to your defined benefit plan.

**Box 14: State tax withheld** – The total of Michigan state tax withheld from your benefit in 2022. MERS only withholds state tax for the state of Michigan.

**Account number:** Unique number assigned by MERS to distinguish your account.

## Does MERS need to know?

When major life events happen, it's a good idea to ask yourself if this is something that you should tell MERS about. Below is a list of common reasons you may want to contact MERS and the best way to tell us that your circumstances have changed.

### **You have moved.**

You can change your mailing and email addresses in your myMERS account. First select any of your MERS retirement plans under the "Accounts" section. Then under the options on the right side, select the "Edit My Profile" link. You may also call the MERS Service Center for assistance.

### **You have a new bank.**

Changes to your direct deposit information can be completed through your myMERS account. To make a change, look under "Accounts" and select "DB Monthly Pension" then click on "View Plan Summary". You will be directed to your Account Detail – Summary page, where you should locate the "Edit Payment Method" section on the left.

### **You have divorced.**

If you divorce, you must provide a certified copy of the judgment of divorce to MERS.

### **Your survivor beneficiary has died.**

If you elected a survivor benefit when you retired and your beneficiary predeceases you, their death may increase the benefit you receive to the full straight life amount. You must provide a copy of the death certificate to MERS within six months to begin collecting the increased amount effective as of the month after your beneficiary's death. After that date, your new payment amount will be effective the month after we receive the death certificate.



You may submit documents three ways:

- File upload through your myMERS account (select "DB Monthly Pension" then "Upload Files")
- Fax to **517.703.9706**
- Mail to **MERS of Michigan, 1134 Municipal Way, Lansing, MI 48917**

## Updating your tax withholding

IRS rules prohibit making changes to your tax withholdings over the phone. Changes can be completed through your myMERS account. To make a change, log into your myMERS account, look under "**Accounts**" and select "**DB Monthly Pension**" then click on "**View Plan Summary**" on the right. You will be directed to your Account Detail – Summary, where the Tax Elections section is located and click "**Edit Federal Tax**" or "**Edit State Tax**". If you need to make tax withholding changes to benefits you are receiving from more than one employer, you can click "**Next Employer**" in the tan header to switch plans.



## Your myMERS account

We strive to make it easy for you to work with MERS. One way we do that is by listening to your feedback and continuously working to improve your online experience. If you haven't logged into your myMERS account at [www.mersofmich.com](http://www.mersofmich.com) recently, things may look a little different. We've streamlined navigation and added more quick links to the tasks you access most.

You can also access your account through our new *myMERS app*. It's available to download in the App Store® and Google Play®. Simply search for myMERS in your device's app marketplace.



## Contact us



MERS Service Center is available 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday to answer your questions.

Call us at **800.767.6377**.

Or visit [www.mersofmich.com](http://www.mersofmich.com) and click "Contact Us" to:



**Live Chat** with us



Schedule time to review your questions over the phone with the **1-on-1 Scheduler**

You can also send us your questions through **Facebook Messenger**.



## Updated working in retirement guidelines

Once you retire from a MERS employer, you can always go work someplace else with no restrictions. But, if you retire and later decide to return to work in a regular position (non-elected or appointed) or as an independent contractor **for the same MERS employer you retired from**, there are typically restrictions on the number of hours you would be permitted to work. However, due to the ongoing staffing issues being experienced by employers, MERS has waived the limit on the number of hours that retirees may work through December 31, 2027. While there is currently no limit to the number of hours you may work each year, you must still:

- Have a "bona fide" separation (no prior arrangement to return)
- Have a minimum 60-day separation before returning to work
- Submit a *Working in Retirement Certification Form*

In addition, if you are rehired after September 26, 2022, you may enroll in an open defined contribution plan if offered by your employer in the employee division into which you are rehired, so long as you meet all other eligibility requirements. You may not re-enroll in a defined benefit or hybrid plan, nor will you accrue additional service credit.



## 2023 Pension Payments

Payments go out on the 18th of the month or one business day before a weekend or holiday.

- |               |             |                |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| • January 18  | • May 18    | • September 18 |
| • February 17 | • June 16   | • October 18   |
| • March 17    | • July 18   | • November 17  |
| • April 18    | • August 18 | • December 18  |

## Join the conversation

Follow MERS of Michigan to keep up with the latest updates from MERS, learn from the experts about topics like health care and social security, and share retirement tips with peers.



*This publication contains a summary description of MERS benefits, policies or procedures. MERS has made every effort to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up to date. Where the publication conflicts with the relevant Plan Document, the Plan Document controls.*

PUB 9544a 2022-12-16