



## Look in your mailbox

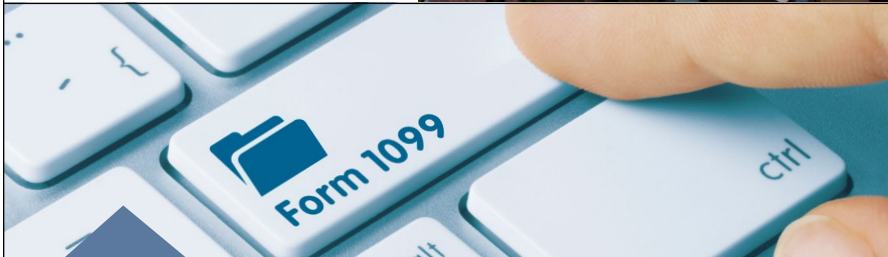
For your convenience, a printed version of this newsletter is also being mailed to you.



## 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

If you withdrew money from your MERS Defined Contribution Plan, MERS 457 Program or MERS IRA account during 2022, you will receive a Form 1099-R for each account you took distributions from. Your 1099-R(s) will be issued by MERS' recordkeeper, Alerus Retirement Solutions. Per IRS requirements, these forms will be mailed no later than January 31, 2023.

You will need this form to file your income taxes. If you lose your paper copy, don't worry. An electronic copy is available online in your myMERS account. After logging in, select the appropriate plan from the **"Accounts"** section, find and select **"View My Statements"** under the options on the right side, and choose the document type **"Form 1099-R"** from the dropdown list. If you took distributions from more than one MERS plan, you will have to download each form separately.



## MERS Statements are Going Electronic

As a reminder, beginning in 2023, all participant directed account quarterly statements will be provided electronically through myMERS. Paper statements will no longer be mailed. There are several reasons we are making this change:

### **Security** –

Accessing statements online is more secure than receiving statements through the mail.

### **Efficiency** –

Statements are available online several days before they would typically be delivered via postal mail.

### **Convenience** –

Statements are accessible electronically from anywhere and at any time.

If you wish to continue to receive paper statements, you can let us know 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. Under “**Document Delivery**”, select “**Paper**”. You may also call the MERS Service Center for assistance.

## 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 divorced.** If you divorce, you must provide a certified copy of the judgment of divorce to MERS. You may submit documents through your myMERS account. Under Accounts, select any of your plans, then choose “View Plan Summary” from the right and then “File Upload” at the top of the page. You may also mail forms to our recordkeeper at Alerus Retirement Solutions, PO Box 64535, St Paul, MN 55164-9926.

**You want to change or add a beneficiary.** You can add, update and delete beneficiary information in your myMERS account either online or using the app. Simply log in to your account and select the plan you want to update. When doing this online, choose “Manage My Beneficiaries” from the actions listed on the right-hand side of the page. In the app, you will first have to click the Action menu in the upper right-hand corner and then choose “Change My Beneficiary”. If you have multiple retirement plans, you will need to update beneficiary information for each MERS program separately. You may also contact our Service Center at 800.767.6377 and they can assist you with making beneficiary updates and answering any questions you have.



## 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.



Municipal Employees' Retirement System

1134 Municipal Way  
Lansing, MI 48917

## 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**.



## 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.*

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## Working in retirement guidelines

At MERS, we consider you to be "retired" if you've met the normal retirement age defined by your MERS Defined Contribution Plan (usually age 60) and are no longer actively working for a MERS employer. As a retiree, if you decide to return to work for the same employer your retirement plan is with, some rules apply:

- You must have a "bona fide" separation (no prior arrangement to return)
- You must have a minimum 60-day separation before returning
- There is no limit to the hours you may work in a calendar year
- 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
- In-service distributions will be allowed while you are working, so long as you are at least age 60

There are no restrictions if you are hired anywhere other than the municipality you retired from.

