



Impacts of a Government Shutdown on Retirement Processing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Updated July 11, 2024

This FAQ document provides information for employees who have submitted or are considering applying for retirement while furloughed due to a government shutdown.

Can I retire during a government shutdown?

Yes, your retirement plans remain unaffected by a government shutdown. You maintain the freedom to retire on a date of your preference, irrespective of your furlough status.

Can I change my retirement date?

Your furlough status will not affect your ability to modify your retirement date. The same guidelines apply, regardless of your furlough status. If you intend to postpone your retirement date, you must make this decision on or before your initially planned retirement date.

Once your retirement date has passed, you will be separated from NASA, and any changes to your retirement date will no longer be possible. However, you may have the option to withdraw your retirement request; please refer to "**Can I withdraw my retirement?**" below for further information.

If you intend to retire sooner than your initial retirement request stated, please inform your Retirement Caseworker and supervisor about this change. Your request will be automatically approved.

If you intend to retire later than your initial retirement request stated, please ensure you obtain approval from your supervisor to ensure a commitment has not been made to backfill your position. If a commitment has been made to backfill your position, your request to delay your retirement may not be approved if there is not a position for you to encumber. It is also imperative to notify your Retirement Caseworker of this change to ensure proper processing.

Important: When you submitted your request to retire, you were asked if you wanted your request to retire to remain confidential and the date in which you would release confidentiality. If you elected your retirement remain confidential and your retirement is still confidential, supervisor notification is not necessary.

Can I withdraw my retirement?

Your furlough status does not impact your ability to withdraw your retirement. The same rules apply, regardless of your furlough status. If you wish to withdraw your retirement request, you must take this action on or before your scheduled retirement date. Once your retirement date has passed, you will be separated from NASA and will no longer be considered an employee.

If you are participating in the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and your retirement date has already passed, you are officially retired, and withdrawing your retirement is not possible.

If you are participating in Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and your retirement date has already passed, you can withdraw your retirement application as long as you have not received an annuity payment. Typically, the first interim annuity payment is made 4 to 6 weeks after retirement. However, even if you withdraw your retirement after your retirement date, this does not withdraw your separation from NASA. Voluntary retirement is considered a personnel action that results in a voluntary separation. Therefore, submitting a retirement application is equivalent to submitting a resignation, and withdrawing the retirement application after separation does not reverse your separation from NASA.

Important: In the case of a FERS separated employee, the ability to withdraw an application for retirement after the retirement date is restricted if the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has received a certified copy of a qualifying court order that awards benefits to a spouse or former spouse.

My retirement date has passed but I have not submitted all my retirement forms, am I considered retired?

Yes. If you have submitted a retirement request to the NSSC Retirement Services Team and the retirement date you initially selected has already passed, you are officially considered retired. Any delay in the processing of your retirement paperwork does not affect your retirement date. However, please be aware that failing to submit your retirement forms before your retirement date may result in a delay in the payment of your annuity and/or lump-sum leave payment.

Can I still retire if I am an excepted employee during a furlough?

Yes, you have the flexibility to retire at any time during a furlough, regardless of your furlough status. Your ability to retire remains unaffected by the furlough.

How do I return my work equipment (e.g., computer, badge) if I retire during a furlough?

Please contact your supervisor for assistance with this question. Each NASA Center has a different exit clearance process.

Will my retirement still be processed if I retire during a furlough?

Despite a government shutdown, the NSSC Retirement Services Team, Interior Business Center (IBC), and OPM will continue to process retirement applications.