



## **Impacts of a Government Shutdown on Retirement Processing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Updated October 23, 2023**

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 wish to move your retirement date closer**, please inform your Retirement Caseworker and supervisor about this change.

**If you intend to push your retirement date further into the future**, you must first obtain approval from your supervisor to ensure a commitment has not been made to backfill your position. It is imperative to notify your Retirement Caseworker of your intention to seek approval to extend your retirement date prior to your request retirement date.

**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 from NASA remain confidential and your retirement is still confidential, supervisor approval is not required to change your retirement date.

### **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, 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 your retirement date has not yet occurred, you have the option to withdraw your retirement request with the approval of your supervisor. It is important to inform your Retirement Caseworker that you are seeking consent to withdraw your retirement.

However, if your retirement date has already passed and you are covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), you are officially retired, and withdrawing your retirement is not possible.

For those covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) whose retirement date has 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. Nevertheless, it's important to note that 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 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, it's important to note 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 and Interior Business Center (IBC) will continue to process retirement applications. IBC will forward a letter to you informing you of the date they forward your retirement application to OPM and the register number used to track it.