

# Fresno County Employees' Retirement Association Disability Retirement Flowchart



## (1) Injured

Member has been injured or placed on disability status. The injury does not have to be work related.

## (2) Written Diagnosis

Your treating physician has deemed you permanent and stationary and given permanent work restrictions that cannot be accommodated by your employer on a permanent basis.

## (3) Apply for disability

Contact FCERA to inform us of your injury. Complete an application for disability retirement. The application must include the Treating Physician Statement. *\*Applications must be submitted while in active status or within 4 months of the discontinuance of service.*

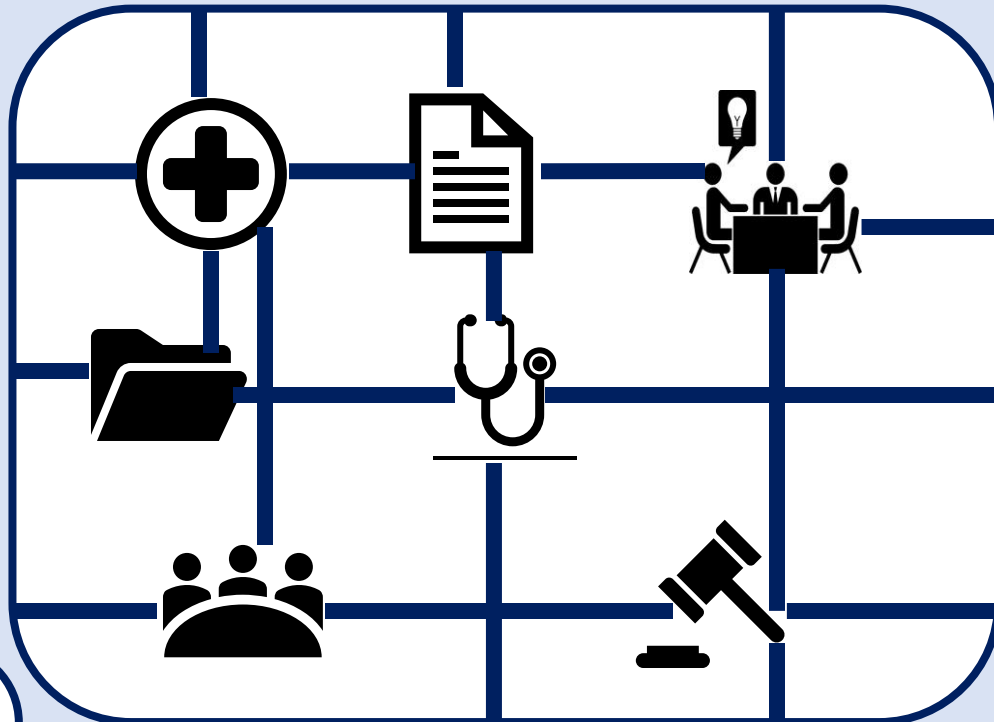
## (4) Application Reviewed

**(30 days)**

Your application and supporting documentation are reviewed for completeness prior to being accepted. If deemed unacceptable, you will receive a written response detailing what needs to be addressed for the application to be accepted for processing. If your application is accepted, you will be scheduled an appointment to discuss your options and the disability retirement process.

## (9) Board Decision (2-4 weeks)

The Board of Retirement makes the determination on all disability applications. The Board of Retirement may grant the application, deny the application (pending a request for hearing), or table the decision to a later date, and request additional information from staff.



## (5) Disability Retirement Counseling (2 weeks)

Retirement staff will discuss Service-Connected vs Non-Service-Connected Disability and eligibility requirements for Service Retirement. Retirement staff will check eligibility of the applicant to receive a service retirement pending the outcome of the disability retirement application. **NOTE: The decision to begin receiving a service retirement will prevent you from returning to work should the Board of Retirement deny your application.**

## (8) Staff Recommendation (1month)

Retirement Staff prepares a Recommendation to the Board of Retirement. A legal analysis may be obtained to guide the Board of Retirement in their review of the application. The matter is presented to the Board of Retirement for their consideration. Staff will notify the applicant of the anticipated agenda date.

## (7) Medical Review and Examination (1-3 months)

Retirement staff reviews all gathered documentation. If sufficient, a medical examination is scheduled. If not sufficient, more records may need to be obtained. Once all records are obtained, they are provided to an Independent Medical Examiner (IME) for review. A medical exam may be required for the IME to render a recommendation. IME has 30 days from review or medical exam to provide a report to FCERA.

## (6) Medical Records Collection (2-3 months)

FCERA utilizes a third-party agency to expedite the process. Documentation is obtained from Workers' Compensation, hospitals, physical therapy, imaging centers, all treating physicians and personnel records. **ALL MEDICAL RECORDS OBTAINED BY THIS OFFICE ARE CONFIDENTIAL.**



*\*Applications must be submitted while in active status or within 4 months from the discontinuance of service.*

*\*\*Timeline is an estimate of start to completion, process can be longer depending on case.*

For more information, call FCERA at 559.457.0681

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