

## Memorandum

**Re:** Common law marriage application

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Included with this memorandum is one copy of the *Statement of Marital Relationship* form. **You and your partner are each required to complete a separate copy.** Completion of the *Statement of Marital Relationship* forms **is considered an application only and does not guarantee** recognition of your relationship as a common law marriage by the retirement system.

When complete, please return the forms to MFPRSI by mailing them to 7155 Lake Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Forms may also be faxed to 515.254.9300 or emailed to [pensions@mfprsi.org](mailto:pensions@mfprsi.org). Include any available documents which give evidence of your marital relationship with your forms. Examples of evidence of your marital relationship might include, but are not limited to the following: tax returns, bank statements, insurance policies, mortgage statements, lease documents, hotel registrations, and mail addressed to the parties as husband and wife.

Once you and your partner submit your *Statement of Marital Relationship* forms as part of the process for determining your common law marital status, MFPRSI may request additional information from parties listed on your forms. Once any additional information has been obtained, MFPRSI will review the information and inform you in writing of its decision of whether or not it will recognize your relationship as a common law marriage.

In the event that the member of MFPRSI dies before the forms are completed, the surviving party still needs to complete and submit this form.

Questions and comments can be directed to MFPRSI by calling 515.254.9200 or by emailing [pensions@mfprsi.org](mailto:pensions@mfprsi.org).

## Common Law Marriage Application

I understand that the information I provide on this form will be used in connection with an application filed for insurance benefits payable under Chapter 411 of the Iowa Code, based on the earnable compensation of the member named below.

First Name of Member	Last Name of Member	Last 5 digits of Member's SSN
First Name of Spouse	Last Name of Spouse	
The non-member of MFPRSI does not need to submit their social security number on their form application.		

1. When and where did you begin living with your spouse?

Month

Year

City

State

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2. Have you and your spouse lived together continuously since that time?

Yes  No

If "no," list the periods of separation and the reasons why you did not live together.

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3. Where and when have you and your spouse lived together?

City

State

Start Date

End Date


4. Did you have an understanding as to the status of your relationship when you and your spouse began living together?

Yes  No

If a written document stating the status of your relationship exists, please provide a copy of the document; if not, what verbal agreement did you and your partner have about your domestic living arrangement?

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5. Was this agreement ever changed?

Yes  No

If "yes," what changes were made and why were they made?

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6. Did you and your spouse understand how long you would live together? Yes  No

If "yes," what was the understanding you and your spouse had regarding how long you would be living together?

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7. Did you and your spouse have an understanding how your relationship could come to an end? Yes  No

If "yes," what did you and your spouse say to each other on this subject?

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8. Did you and your spouse believe that living together made you legally married? Yes  No

If "yes," why did you believe so?

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9. In addition to living together domestically did you and your spouse have an agreement that a ceremonial marriage would be performed? Yes  No

If "yes," explain why the ceremony was not performed.

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10. Were any children born of your relationship with your partner? Yes  No

If "yes," list your children below:

Full Name at Birth

Date of Birth (or Age)

Place of Birth

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

11. Provide the first and last names by which you and your spouse were known:

Before Living Together (Member)

Before Living Together (Spouse)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Since Living Together (Member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Since Living Together (Spouse)

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12. If you and your spouse did not use the same last name, state the reasons:

13. Since you and your spouse began living together, did the two of you acquire documentation listing both of you as living at the same mailing address? Yes  No

If "yes," provide the following information:

<u>Type of Document</u>	<u>Date</u>		
_____	_____	Were you listed as your partner's spouse?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	Were you listed as your partner's spouse?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	Were you listed as your partner's spouse?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

14. Did you and your spouse have joint business dealings with other persons or joint credit accounts? Yes  No

If "yes," provide the names and addresses for such persons or credit institutions/stores:

<u>Name of Person or Credit Institution</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date of Transaction</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

15. How did you introduce your spouse to relatives, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc.?

16. How did your spouse introduce you to relatives, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, etc.?

17. How was mail addressed to you and your spouse?

18. List the names of employers and people (non-family) who knew of your relationship:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

19. List your relatives and family members who knew of your relationship with your spouse. **Do not list your children.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone or Email</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

20. One or more of the people listed in questions 18 and 19 may be contacted regarding the knowledge they may have of your relationship with your spouse listed on this form. If you object to any of them being contacted, please list the names and provide reasons for your objection:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason for your objection</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

21. Have you, the member, lived as a married couple with someone other than the person listed on this form?

Yes  No

If "yes," provide the following information (skip to question 22 if you are not the member):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Kind of Relationship (ceremonial, etc.)</u>	<u>How relationship ended</u>	<u>Date and place relationship ended</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

22. Have you, the spouse of the member, lived as a domestic partner with someone other than the person listed on this form?

Yes  No

If "yes," provide the following information (skip this question if you are the member):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Kind of relationship (ceremonial, etc.)</u>	<u>How relationship ended</u>	<u>Date and place relationship ended</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Answer questions 23-25 if either you or your spouse had a ceremonial or common law marriage that was in effect at the time you began living together.

**23. At the time you and your spouse began living together, did you know that the earlier marriage was still in effect?**

Yes  No

If "no," answer questions 24 and 25.

**24. When and how did you discover this previous marriage was still in effect?**

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**25. When and how did your preceding marital partner learn about your living situation with the partner named on this form?**

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Signature of Applicant  
(First, Middle, Last Name)

Date

Telephone

Email

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Mailing Address