

# The Consolidated Judicial Retirement System (CJRS)

## Quick Reference Guide

### How the Retirement System Works

As you are a justice, judge, district attorney, clerk of court, public defender, administrative officer of the courts, or director of indigent defense services serving North Carolina, you are contributing 6% of your compensation to the Retirement System as a condition of your employment. Ultimately, these contributions will be returned to either you or your beneficiaries.

Your employer is also making contributions to the System. During the course of your career, these contributions are managed as a part of one of the strongest public pension systems in the United States. The contributions from employees, employers, and investment earnings from the investment of those contributions are used to provide monthly retirement benefits, as well as death and disability benefits, to judicial employees.

For you to be eligible to receive a benefit, you will have to meet certain age and service requirements. A significant milestone in your career is the five-year mark when you are vested in the System. Being vested means being eligible for a retirement benefit as soon as you meet an age requirement.

While the amount of your eventual retirement benefit maybe affected by your rate of compensation over the years, this benefit is *not* based on the amount you have contributed to the System. The System is a defined benefit plan qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. This means that your retirement benefit will be based on a formula(s) which reflects the amount of retirement credit you have earned over the course of your career in North Carolina. You earn retirement credit each month you make contributions to the System. Increasing the amount of credit you have in the System increases your benefit from the System.

You can keep track of your contributions and retirement credit through ORBIT (Online Retirement Benefits through Integrated Technology). Visit [www.myncretirement.com](http://www.myncretirement.com) and log-in to this secure, web-based system that provides you with full access to your personal benefit account.

You will also receive an annual statement. This statement provides information about your System account and beneficiary(ies).

### Your Benefits At-A-Glance (Subject to the General Statutes of North Carolina)

*Note: The following is not an exhaustive description of all benefits for which you may be eligible, of the eligibility criteria, or the benefit amount. For more information, see your member handbook available on our web site at [www.myncretirement.com](http://www.myncretirement.com).*

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Minimum Eligibility Requirement</b>	<b>What You Should Know</b>
Monthly Retirement Benefit	5 years of credit as early as age 50	The amount is based on the retirement formula(s), which reflects your compensation record, the amount of retirement credit you have, and other factors. At retirement, you will choose among payment options.
Monthly Disability Retirement Benefit	5 years of credit	An authorized medical professional must certify the illness. Amount is calculated the same way as service retirement.
Death Benefit	Be actively contributing at the time of death	At your death, your beneficiary(ies) receives an amount representing one year's compensation, plus all of your undistributed contributions, unless eligible for a monthly Surviving Spouse Benefit.

### Contact Us

**Write anytime or visit by appointment:**  
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