

701—40.47 (422) Partial exclusion of pensions and other retirement benefits for disabled individuals, individuals who are 55 years of age or older, surviving spouses, and survivors. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1995, an individual who is disabled, is 55 years of age or older, is a surviving spouse, or is a survivor with an insurable interest in an individual who would have qualified for the exclusion is eligible for a partial exclusion of retirement benefits received in the tax year. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2001, the partial exclusion of retirement benefits received in the tax year is increased up to a maximum of \$6,000 for a person other than a husband or wife who files a separate state return and up to a maximum of \$12,000 for a husband and wife who file a joint Iowa return. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1998, the partial exclusion of retirement benefits received in the tax year was increased up to a maximum of \$5,000 for a person, other than a husband or wife who files a separate state income tax return, and up to a maximum of \$10,000 for a husband and wife who file a joint state income tax return. A husband and wife filing separate state income tax returns or separately on a combined state return are allowed a combined exclusion of retirement benefits of up to a maximum of \$10,000 for tax years beginning in 1998, 1999 and 2000 and a combined exclusion of up to a maximum of \$12,000 for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2001. The \$10,000 or \$12,000 exclusion shall be allocated to the husband and wife in the proportion that each spouse's respective pension and retirement benefits received bear to the total combined pension and retirement benefits received by both spouses.

EXAMPLE 1. A married couple elected to file separately on the combined return form. Both spouses were 55 years of age or older. The wife received \$95,000 in retirement benefits and the husband received \$5,000 in retirement benefits. Since the wife received 95 percent of the retirement benefits, she would be entitled to 95 percent of the \$10,000 retirement income exclusion or a retirement income exclusion of \$9,500. The husband would be entitled to 5 percent of the \$10,000 retirement income exclusion or an exclusion of \$500.

EXAMPLE 2. A married couple elected to file separately on the combined return form. Both spouses were 55 years of age or older. The husband had \$15,000 in retirement benefits from a pension. The wife received no retirement benefits. In this situation, the husband can use the entire \$10,000 retirement income exclusion to exclude \$10,000 of his pension benefits since the spouse did not use any of the \$10,000 retirement income exclusion for the tax year.

EXAMPLE 3. A married couple elected to file separately on the combined return form. One spouse was 52 years of age and received a pension income of \$20,000. The other spouse was 55 years of age and received no pension income. Since the spouse receiving the pension income was not 55 years of age, no exclusion is allowed on the Iowa return.

EXAMPLE 4. A married couple elected to file separately on the combined return form. One spouse was 52 years of age and received a pension income of \$10,000. The other spouse was 55 years of age and received a pension income of \$8,000. Since only one spouse receiving the pension income was 55 years of age, an exclusion of \$8,000 is allowed on the Iowa return. The exclusion of \$8,000 is allowed since a married couple is allowed a combined exclusion of up to \$12,000.

For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1995, but prior to January 1, 1998, the retirement income exclusion was up to \$3,000 for single individuals, up to \$3,000 for each married person filing a separate Iowa return, up to \$3,000 for each married person filing separately on the combined return form, and up to \$6,000 for married taxpayers filing joint Iowa returns. For example, a married couple elected to file separately on the combined return form and both spouses were 55 years of age or older. One spouse had \$2,000 in pension income that could be excluded, since the pension income was \$3,000 or less. The other spouse had \$6,000 in pension income and could exclude \$3,000 of that income due to the retirement income exclusion. This second spouse could not exclude an additional \$1,000 of the up to \$3,000 retirement income exclusion that was not used by the other spouse.

“Insurable interest” is a term used in life insurance which also applies to this rule and is defined to be “such an interest in the life of the person insured, arising from the relations of the party obtaining the insurance, either as credit of or surety for the assured, or from the ties of blood or marriage to him, as would justify a reasonable expectation of advantage or benefit from the continuance of his life.” *Warnock*

v. Davis, 104 U.S. 775, 779, 26 L.Ed. 924; *Connecticut Mut. Life Ins. Co. v. Luchs*, 2 S.Ct. 949, 952, 108 U.S. 498, 27 L.Ed. 800; Appeal of Corson, 6 A. 213, 215, 113 Pa. 438, 57 Am. Rep. 479; *Adams' Adm'r v. Reed*, Ky., 36 S.W. 568, 570; *Trinity College v. Travelers' Co.*, 18 S.E. 175, 176, 113 N.C. 244, 22 L.R.A. 291; *Opitz v. Karel*, 95 N.W. 948, 951, 118 Wis. 527, 62 L.R.A. 982. It is not necessary that the expectation of advantage or profit should always be capable of pecuniary estimation, for a parent has an insurable interest in the life of his child, and a child in the life of his parent, a husband in the life of his wife, and a wife in the life of her husband. The natural affection in cases of this kind is considered as more powerful, as operating the more efficaciously, to protect the life of the insured than any other consideration, but in all cases there must be a reasonable ground, founded on relations to each other, either pecuniary or of blood or affinity, to expect some benefit or advantage from the continuance of the life of the assured. *Warnock v. Davis*, 104 U.S. 775, 26 L.Ed. 924; Appeal of Corson, 6 A. 213, 215, 113 Pa. 438, 57 Am. Rep. 479; *Connecticut Mut. Life Ins. Co. v. Luchs*, 2 S.Ct. 949, 952, 108 U.S. 498, 27 L.Ed. 800.

For purposes of this rule, the term "insurable interest" will be considered to apply to a beneficiary receiving retirement benefits due to the death of a pensioner or annuitant under the same circumstances as if the beneficiary were receiving life insurance benefits as a result of the death of the pensioner or annuitant.

For purposes of this rule, the term "survivor" is a person other than the surviving spouse of an annuitant or pensioner who is receiving the annuity or pension benefits because the person was a beneficiary of the pensioner or annuitant at the time of death of the pensioner or annuitant. In addition, in order for this person to qualify for the partial exclusion of pensions or retirement benefits, this survivor must have had an insurable interest in the pensioner or annuitant at the time of death of the annuitant or pensioner.

A survivor other than the surviving spouse will be considered to have an insurable interest in the pensioner or annuitant if the survivor is a son, daughter, mother, or father of the annuitant or pensioner. The relationship of these individuals to the pensioner or annuitant is considered to be so close that no separate pecuniary or monetary interest between the pensioner or annuitant and any of these relatives must be established.

A survivor may include relatives of the pensioner or annuitant other than those relatives that were mentioned above. However, before any of these relatives can be considered to be a survivor for purposes of this rule, the relative must have had some pecuniary interest in the continuation of the life of the pensioner or annuitant. That is, the relative must establish a relationship with the pensioner or annuitant that shows there was a reasonable expectation of an advantage or benefit which the person would have received with the continuance of the life of the pensioner or annuitant.

The fact that a niece of the pensioner or annuitant was named beneficiary of an uncle's pension where the uncle had no closer relatives does not in itself establish that the niece had an insurable interest in the pension benefits, if the niece was not receiving monetary benefits or the niece did not have some special relationship to the uncle at the time of the uncle's death.

If a grandson was receiving college tuition regularly from his grandfather and received the grandfather's pension as a beneficiary of the grandfather after the grandfather's death, the grandson would be deemed to have an insurable interest in the benefits and would be eligible for the partial retirement benefit exclusion.

A person who is not related to the pensioner or annuitant, such as a partner in a business or a creditor, may have an insurable interest in the pensioner or annuitant. However, the burden of proof is on a nonrelated person to show that the person had an insurable interest in the pensioner or the annuitant at the time of death of the pensioner or annuitant.

There are numerous court cases which deal with whether a person had established an insurable interest in the life of an individual that was insured. These cases may be used as a guideline to determine whether or not a person receiving a pension or annuity due to the death of an annuitant or pensioner had an insurable interest in the annuitant or pensioner at the time of death of the pensioner or annuitant. Thus, if a person would have met criteria for an insurable interest for purposes of an interest in a person's

life insurance policy, the person would also be considered to be qualified for an insurable interest in a pensioner or annuitant.

Retirement benefits subject to the retirement income exclusion include, but are not limited to: benefits from defined benefit or defined contribution pension and annuity plans, benefits from annuities, incomes from individual retirement accounts, benefits from pension or annuity plans contributed by an employer or maintained or contributed by a self-employed person and benefits and earnings from deferred compensation plans. However, the exclusion does not apply to social security benefits. A surviving spouse who is not disabled or is not 55 years of age or older can only exclude retirement benefits received as a result of the death of the other spouse and on the basis that the deceased spouse would have been eligible for the exclusion in the tax year. In order for a survivor other than the surviving spouse to qualify for the partial exclusion of retirement benefits, the survivor must have received the retirement benefits as a result of the death of a pensioner or annuitant who would have qualified for the exclusion in the tax year on the basis of age or disability. In addition, the survivor other than the surviving spouse would have had to have an insurable interest in the pensioner or annuitant at the time of the death of the pensioner or annuitant.

For purposes of this rule, a disabled individual is a person who is receiving benefits as a result of retirement from employment or self-employment due to disability. In addition, a person is considered to be a disabled individual if the individual is determined to be disabled in accordance with criteria established by the Social Security Administration or other federal or state governmental agency.

Note that the pension or other retirement benefits that are excluded from taxation for certain individuals are to be considered as a part of net income for purposes of determining whether or not a particular individual's income is low enough to exempt that taxpayer from tax. In addition, the pension or other retirement benefits that are excluded from taxation for certain individuals are to be considered as a part of net income for the alternative tax computation, which is available to all taxpayers except those taxpayers filing as single individuals.

Finally, the pension or other retirement benefits are to be considered as a part of net income for individuals using the single filing status whose tax liabilities are limited so the liabilities cannot reduce the person's net income plus exempt benefits below \$9,000, or below \$18,000 for taxpayers 65 years of age or older for the 2007 and 2008 tax years, or below \$24,000 for taxpayers 65 years of age or older for the 2009 and subsequent tax years.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.5 and 422.7.

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