

subsection (a) of this section applies shall receive only the highest such amount.

**(c) Determination and allocation of shares**

The amount under subsection (a) of this section shall be paid only as follows:

(1) If a covered spouse is alive at the time of payment, such payment shall be made to such surviving spouse.

(2) If there is no covered spouse described in paragraph (1), such payment shall be made in equal shares to all covered children who are alive at the time of payment.

(3) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this subsection, if there is—

(A) a covered spouse described in paragraph (1); and

(B) at least one covered child of the employee who is living at the time of payment and who is not a recognized natural child or adopted child of such covered spouse,

then half of such payment shall be made to such covered spouse, and the other half of such payment shall be made in equal shares to each covered child of the employee who is living at the time of payment.

**(d) Definitions**

In this section:

(1) The term “covered spouse” means a spouse of the employee who was married to the employee for at least one year immediately before the employee’s death.

(2) The term “covered child” means a child of the employee who, as of the employee’s death—

(A) had not attained the age of 18 years;

(B) had not attained the age of 23 years and was a full-time student who had been continuously enrolled as a full-time student in one or more educational institutions since attaining the age of 18 years; or

(C) had been incapable of self-support.

(3) The term “child” includes a recognized natural child, a stepchild who lived with an individual in a regular parent-child relationship, and an adopted child.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3674], as added Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3161, Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2180.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), (3), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 7 (§301 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of this title and Tables.

**§ 7385s-4. Determinations regarding contraction of covered illnesses**

**(a) Cases determined under part B**

A determination under part B that a Department of Energy contractor employee is entitled to compensation under that part for an occupational illness shall be treated for purposes of this part as a determination that the employee contracted that illness through exposure at a Department of Energy facility.

**(b) Cases determined under former part D**

In the case of a covered illness of an employee with respect to which a panel has made a posi-

tive determination under section 7385o(d) of this title and the Secretary of Energy has accepted that determination under section 7385o(e)(2) of this title, or with respect to which a panel has made a negative determination under section 7385o(d) of this title and the Secretary of Energy has found significant evidence to the contrary under section 7385o(e)(2) of this title, that determination shall be treated for purposes of this part as a determination that the employee contracted the covered illness through exposure at a Department of Energy facility.

**(c) Other cases**

(1) In any other case, a Department of Energy contractor employee shall be determined for purposes of this part to have contracted a covered illness through exposure at a Department of Energy facility if—

(A) it is at least as likely as not that exposure to a toxic substance at a Department of Energy facility was a significant factor in aggravating, contributing to, or causing the illness; and

(B) it is at least as likely as not that the exposure to such toxic substance was related to employment at a Department of Energy facility.

(2) A determination under paragraph (1) shall be made by the Secretary.

**(d) Applications by spouses and children**

If a spouse or child of a Department of Energy contractor employee applies for benefits under this part, the Secretary shall make a determination under this section with respect to that employee without regard to whether the spouse is a “covered spouse”, or the child is a “covered child”, under this part.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3675], as added Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3161, Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2181.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 7385o of this title, referred to in subsec. (b), was repealed by Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3162(1), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2186.

**§ 7385s-5. Applicability to certain uranium employees**

**(a) In general**

This part shall apply to—

(1) a section 5 payment recipient who contracted a section 5 illness through a section 5 exposure at a section 5 facility, or

(2) a section 5 uranium worker determined under section 7385s-4(c) of this title to have contracted a covered illness through exposure to a toxic substance at a section 5 mine or mill,

(or to the survivor of that employee, as applicable) on the same basis as it applies to a Department of Energy contractor employee determined under section 7385s-4 of this title to have contracted a covered illness through exposure to a toxic substance at a Department of Energy facility (or to the survivor of that employee, as applicable).

**(b) Definitions**

In this section: