



## **Pension and divorce**

Important information for you and your ex-partner if you are separating

What do you need to know?

What else do you need to know?

Would you like to know all about pensions and divorce?



## What do you need to know?

The end of your relationship can affect your pension. It is important that you understand what the consequences of this can be. Below, we outline the most important things you need to know.

- ▶ If you get divorced, your ex-partner is entitled to half of the old-age pension accrued during the time you were married and all of the partner's pension accrued. You are entitled to half of the old-age pension accrued by your ex-partner.
- ▶ It is important that you inform the pension fund about your divorce. We will then ensure that the pension will be split between you and your ex-partner. You must notify us of your divorce within two years of the divorce date. You can use [this form](#) to do this.
- ▶ If you participate in the Surviving Dependents Bridge Pension policy, you can end this. You will then stop paying the premiums. If you get a new partner, you can take out the policy again.
- ▶ If you want to make alternative agreements about how your pension is split, that is possible. But you will need to agree this formally in a divorce agreement.
- ▶ The pension scheme is administered by Achmea Pension Services.

**Want to know more?**  
Then go to:





## What else do you need to know?

There are so many things that need to be agreed when you get divorced, and people often forget about their pension arrangements. Below, you can read more about how the pension is split by default and what you need to think about.

### Settlement

The law states that the old-age pension should only be split in the event of a divorce, a legal separation or the termination of a registered partnership. As such, if you are living together without being married, this will not happen. In that case, only the partner's pension needs to be split. If your ex-partner dies before you do, you will then get back your portion of the partner's pension.

### Notify the pension fund

If you do not inform us in time that you are getting divorced, your ex-partner will still be entitled to his or her share of your pension. However, you will need to make sure that he or she receives this yourself. Use [this form](#) to notify us of your divorce. If you make alternative agreements about distributing the pension, you will need to enclose a copy of the divorce agreement or waiver. If you are employed by Avebe, you can send the form to HR and/or Achmea Pension Services. If you leave your job or retire, send the form to Achmea Pension Services

### An alternative distribution

Normally, the old-age pension that is accrued while you were married is split 50/50.

The special partner's pension is 70% of the old-age pension accrued with us during the relationship.

This also applies to couples who live together without being married, provided you have agreed this with a civil-law notary.

However, you and your ex-partner can also split the old-age pension and partner's pension using a different ratio. You can also choose not to split the partner's pension at all. In that case, your ex-partner will not receive a special partner's pension after your death. If you agree a different distribution, you must either stipulate this in advance or include it in the divorce agreement afterwards or in a written waiver. It is important that this clearly describes which pensions will be split or waived and how.

You then need to send a copy of these documents to the pension fund.

Starting on the date on which the relationship ends, you will accrue a partner's pension again for a possible new partner. If you do not have a new partner on your retirement date, we will automatically convert the partner's pension accrued into a higher old-age pension for you.



## I want to know everything about pensions and divorce

If you want to know all the ins-and-outs of retirement and the end of a relationship, please continue reading.

### Calculation example

John and Marijke's pension after their divorce.



#### Accrued pension

John (43) and Marijke (40) are getting divorced after being married for 10 years.

John has been participating in the pension plan since he was 23 years old. He accrued € 12,000 in old-age pension up to the time of his divorce.

Between the age of 20 and 35, Marijke accrued a pension of € 6,000. The partner's pension also needs to be distributed. John has accrued a total of € 8,400 in partner's pension.

Marijke has not accrued a partner's pension in her pension plan.

#### Standard distribution

Of the old-age pension of € 12,000 that John has accrued, € 6,000 was accrued while he was married to Marijke. Marijke will be entitled to half of that pension: € 3,000. That pension will be paid out to her after John retires.

Marijke accrued € 2,000 in old-age pension during the marriage. John will be entitled to half of that pension: € 1,000. That pension will be paid out to him after Marijke retires.

The partner's pension accrued by John (€ 8,400) will be paid out to Marijke.

### Pension conversion

You can also opt to convert your pension. Your ex-partner will then be entitled to an independent old-age pension instead of a share of the split old-age pension and special partner's pension.

In this case, because your ex-partner has an independent pension entitlement, it no longer matters when you retire or when you die. With a normal distribution, this does matter. Once you have opted for conversion, you will no longer be able to reverse this. You will not get this part back, not even if your ex-partner dies before the statutory retirement age.

Although the law makes conversion possible, the Pension Fund will not agree to conversion in all cases. In each situation, the Pension Fund will assess whether conversion is possible and whether it agrees to it. Conversion is only possible if both partners agree.

If one partner does not agree, the standard distribution will apply.

### Advantages and disadvantages of conversion

The advantage of conversion is that your pension and your ex-partner's pension are completely separated. The disadvantage is that you also lose the right to the old-age pension transferred to your ex-partner when he or she dies. After conversion, you will therefore definitively lose the split old-age pension.

Another possible disadvantage of conversion is that if your ex-partner is dependent on alimony, not only will he or she no longer receive alimony after your death, but neither will he or she receive a special partner's pension.

After all, your ex-partner will receive a special partner's pension after your death.

Make sure you seek good financial advice about your personal situation if you need to make a decision about the distribution of pension rights. Conversion will not be the best solution in all cases.

### The consequences of equalization and conversion in a nutshell

|   | Equalisation (legal distribution* old-age pension)   | Conversion  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>If you split up</b>                              | The old-age pension accrued is distributed (equalised) between you and your ex-partner. Your ex-partner receives the special partner's pension.                      | The split retirement pension + special partner's pension are converted into an independent old-age pension for your ex-partner.         |
| <b>Pension benefit for your ex-partner</b>          | This commences when you retire.  | Commences when your ex-partner retires  |
| <b>If you pass away</b>                             | Your ex-partner receives the special partner's pension for life (which is usually 70% of the old-age pension accrued during the marriage or registered partnership). | If your ex-partner does not receive a special partner's pension, your ex-partner's share of the pension will lapse to the pension fund. |
| <b>If your ex-partner passes away before you do</b> | Then you will receive his or her equal part of the old-age pension.  | Your ex-partner's share of the pension will lapse to the pension fund.  |
| <b>Possible advantages and disadvantages</b>        | You are still linked to your ex-partner after you retire.  | When it comes to your pension, you no longer have anything to do with your ex-partner.  |

\* Even if you opt for splitting the pension, you can make other agreements about the distribution with your ex-partner.

## Useful sources

You can contact the websites of the following institutions for more information about your pension.



You can log in here on the pension planner and check your accrued pension at Avebe.



Check your pension and adjust it if your situation changes. View on the website from Wijzer in geldzaken, 'what you can do yourself'.



Do you also have accrued pension with other employers? Then please use the pension register to review all of your accrued pension rights. You will need to log in with your Digi-D.



Here you will find information about the law of divorce equalisation.

## Contact

If you have questions about your pension, please contact the pensions helpdesk.

### The pensions helpdesk

The helpdesk can be contacted on working days from 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on telephone number 013 - 462 93 00.

You can also send an e-mail to:  
[pensioenfondsavebe@achmea.nl](mailto:pensioenfondsavebe@achmea.nl).

You can also send a letter to:  
Pensioenfonds Avebe pensioenhelpdesk  
p/a Achmea Pensioenservices  
P.O. Box 90170  
5000 LM Tilburg

### Pension scheme

In order to keep the texts easy to read, the information in this brochure is an abridged and simple version of the information from the pension scheme. Ultimately, the pension regulations are leading.

You can find the pension scheme on our website  
[www.pensioenfondsavebe.nl](http://www.pensioenfondsavebe.nl).

Pensioenfonds Avebe