

PERAC's Guide to
UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING

PENSION FRAUD



PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION
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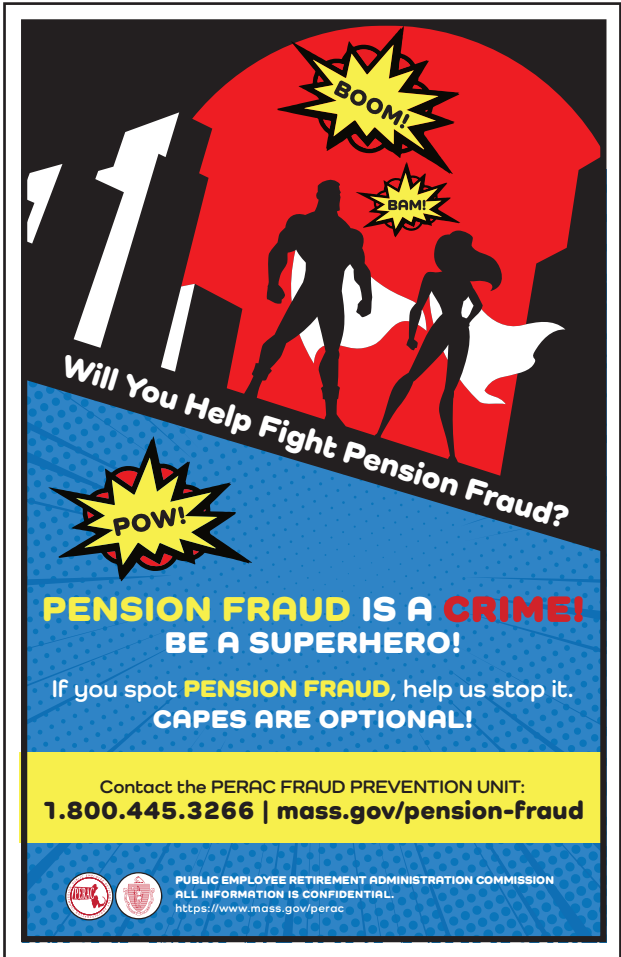


PERAC FRAUD PREVENTION UNIT

The **Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC)** was created for and is dedicated to the oversight, guidance, monitoring, and regulation of the Massachusetts public pension systems. The Commission's efforts are focused on the identification and prevention of public pension fraud. Fraud can be defined as "deception deliberately practiced in order to secure unfair or unlawful gain."

Chapter 427 of the Acts of 1996 established the **Fraud Prevention Unit** within the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC). The Unit has the powers and duties necessary for the prevention and investigation of fraudulent disability pension claims and payments. The Unit is responsible for data collection relating to all disability retirees, including earnings statements, Registry information, criminal offender record information, DOR wage match data, retirement board records, and other relevant information.

For additional copies of the **2023 Fraud Awareness Poster** (right) or **Referral Report of Potential Fraud** form (below), please contact the PERAC Fraud Prevention Unit at **1-800-445-3266**.



Pension Fraud Referral Report of Potential Fraud
Form Last Revised: October, 2023

Subject of Referral

Full Name: _____ Zip Code: _____
Street Address: _____
City/Town: _____
Telephone (if available): _____
Social Security # (if available): _____
Retirement Board of Retiree: _____

Allegation

Please give a brief description of the allegation:

Optional

If we need more information, may we contact you? YES NO (If YES, fill in the information below)

Full Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Street Address: _____ Email: _____
City/Town: _____
Phone Number: _____

You can make a report online, via telephone or email, or by dropping this form in the mail.
PensionFraud@mass.gov | Pension Fraud Hotline: 1-800-445-3266 | www.mass.gov/pension-fraud
PERAC, 5 Middlesex Avenue, Suite 304, Somerville, MA 02145

For PERAC Use Only

Received By: _____ Date: _____

REFERRAL REPORT OF POTENTIAL FRAUD

If you have reason to believe that public pension fraud may have occurred or is about to occur, please promptly notify **PERAC's Fraud Prevention Unit**. The Unit will review each report and undertake further investigation as it deems necessary and proper to determine if pension fraud has occurred.

Depending on the outcome of any investigation, the Commission may refer matters to the Attorney General, the appropriate District Attorney, or the United States Attorney.

You may reach the Fraud Prevention Unit via phone, email or mail (by filling out and mailing in a **Referral Report of Potential Fraud** form). Copies of the Referral Report form may be obtained from PERAC, the PERAC Web site (**mass.gov/perac**) or any public employee retirement board in the Commonwealth.



PUBLIC PENSION FRAUD

PUBLIC PENSION REFERRALS FALL LARGELY INTO FOUR CATEGORIES:

1 Submission of Falsified Records

Anyone who knowingly submits falsified records to a public employee retirement board or PERAC for the purpose of gaining benefits will be investigated for fraud. Such records may include, but are not limited to, falsified birth certificates, marriage certificates, adoption records, divorce decrees, medical records, and accident reports.

2 Submission of Falsified Affidavits

Every public pension retiree and the surviving beneficiaries of such deceased retirees, receive affidavits from their retirement board. The purpose of this affidavit is to verify that the retiree/beneficiary is living and to update other key information such as his/her current address. Confirmation of a beneficiary's dependency status is also sought where it is relevant for continued receipt of benefits. Any retiree/beneficiary who knowingly makes false responses on this affidavit will be investigated for fraud. Anyone who signs an affidavit who is anyone other than the retiree, his/her beneficiary, or an individual with a valid power of attorney will be investigated for fraud.

3 Disability Retirees Working in Excess of the Limitations

G.L. c. 32, § 91A provides that if the amount of a disability retiree's annual retirement allowance, when added to his/her total post retirement earnings, is in excess of the regular compensation the retiree would have received if he/she continued in service at the grade held at retirement plus \$15,000, his/her retirement allowance shall be reduced or suspended. Each disability retiree is required to file an Annual Statement of Earned Income with PERAC on or before April 15th of each year, certifying the amount, if any, of his/her earnings from earned income during the preceding year. Disability Retirees who do not

report or under-report earned income will be investigated for fraud.

4 Retirees Working in Excess of the Limitations in the MA Public Sector

Pursuant to G.L. c. 32, § 91(b) and effective July 1, 2021, a retiree can be employed in the service of the commonwealth, county, city, town, district or authority for not more than 1,200 hours in the aggregate, in any calendar year; provided that the earnings therefrom, when added to any pension or retirement allowance he/she is receiving, do not exceed the salary that is being paid for the position from which he/she was retired. Effective 4/2/2012, a retiree may earn an additional \$15,000 per year if retired for at least one calendar year. Retirees are required to report their status as public retirees to prospective public employers.



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