

Social Security Information

A MESSAGE FROM SOCIAL SECURITY

If the deceased was receiving benefits, you need to contact us to report the death. If you think you may be eligible for survivor benefits, you should contact us and apply.

WHO CAN GET SURVIVOR BENEFITS?

Here is a list of family members who can usually get benefits:

- Widows and widowers, age 60 or older.
- Widows and widowers at any age if caring for the deceased's child(ren) who are under age 16 or disabled.
- Divorced wives and husbands, age 60 or older, if married to the deceased for 10 years or more.
- Widows, widowers, divorced wives, and divorced husbands, age 50 or older, if they are disabled.
- Children up to age 18.
- Children age 18-19 if they are full-time students.
- Children over age 18, if they became disabled before age 22.
- The deceased worker's parents, age 62 or older, if they were being supported by the worker.

A SPECIAL ONE-TIME PAYMENT

In addition to the monthly benefits for family members, a one-time payment of \$255 can be paid to a spouse who was living with the worker at the time of death. If there is none, it can be paid to the following:

- A spouse who is eligible for benefits.
- A child or children who are eligible for benefits.

HOW TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS

You can apply for benefits by telephone, by going to any Social Security office, or by calling the number below.

INFORMATION NEEDED

- Your Social Security number and the deceased worker's Social Security number.
- A death certificate. (Generally the funeral director provides a statement that can be used for this purpose.)
- Proof of the deceased worker's earnings for the last year. (W-2 forms or self-employment tax return.)
- Your birth certificate.
- A marriage certificate, if you are applying as a widow, widower, divorced wife, or divorced husband.
- Children's birth certificates and Social Security numbers, if applying for children's benefits.
- Your checking or savings account information, if you want direct deposit of your benefits.

You will need to submit original documents or copies certified by the issuing office. You can mail or bring them to the office. Social Security will make photocopies and return your documents.

A REMINDER...

If the deceased was receiving Social Security benefits, checks which arrive after death will need to be returned to the Social Security office. If Social Security checks were being directly deposited into a bank account, the bank needs to be notified of the death too.