

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

WHO CAN GET SURVIVORS BENEFITS

HERE IS A LIST OF FAMILY MEMBERS WHO USUALLY CAN 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 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 attend elementary school or high school full-time.
- 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.

HOW TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS

You can apply for benefits by telephone or by going to any Social Security office. You may need some of the documents shown on the list below, but don't delay your application because you don't have all the information. If you don't have a document you need, Social Security can help you get it.

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 earning for last year (W-2 forms or self-employment tax return).
- Your birth certificate.
- A marriage certificate, if you are applying for benefits as a widow, widower, divorced wife, or divorced husband.
- A divorce decree, if you are applying for benefits as a divorced wife or 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 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, the one-time payment can be made to an eligible spouse, child or children.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

For more information, write or visit any Social Security office, or phone the toll-free number, [1-800-772-1213](tel:1-800-772-1213).

A REMINDER

If the deceased was receiving Social Security benefits, any 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.

We hope you find this information useful & encourage your feedback.

If you have questions not answered here, please call us at [1-888-670-0802](tel:1-888-670-0802).

