

Survivors Benefits: You May Be Eligible To Apply



Social Security is with you when you lose a family member. You may be eligible for survivors benefit payments if you lost someone who worked and earned income before they died.

We encourage you to apply as soon as you can. For some claims, we pay benefits from the time you apply and not from the time the worker died. Visit www.ssa.gov/survivor to learn more about survivors benefits and how to apply.

Or call us at 1-800-772-1213 between 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday. Wait times to speak to a representative are typically shorter in the morning, later in the week, and later in the month.

Survivor Benefits for Surviving Family Members –

Spouses may be eligible if you:

- Are age 60 or older, or age 50–59 if you have a disability.
- Were married for at least 9 months before your spouse's death.
- Did not remarry before age 60 (age 50 if you have a disability).

Ex-spouses as well as some valid non-marital legal relationships may be eligible if they meet the above qualifications and were married for at least 10 years.

You might be eligible regardless of age and how long you were married. One common example is if you're caring for a child of the person who died (mother's or father's benefits). You may get up to 100% of the worker's benefit.

Dependent parents might be eligible if you're age 62 or older and were financially supported by your child who died. You may get up to 75% of the worker's benefit.

Children of someone who died may be eligible if they're unmarried and are one of the following:

- Age 17 and younger.
- Ages 18–19 and in school (K–12) full time.
- Any age if they developed a disability at age 21 or younger.

Under certain circumstances, we can also pay benefits to married children, stepchildren, adopted children, grandchildren, and step-grandchildren. They may get up to 75% of the worker's benefit.

Lump Sum Death Benefit is one-time payment of \$255 to surviving spouse or child(ren) who meet certain requirements.