

Social Security Information

Reporting a Death

You can report a death to a Social Security Service representative by calling the toll-free number: 1-800-772-1213 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Whenever you call, have your loved-one's Social Security number available. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the toll-free TTY number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Applying for Survivors Benefits

Social Security survivor benefits can be paid to:

- A widow or widower: full benefits at full retirement age (currently age 65), or reduced benefits as early as age 60
- A disabled widow or widower as early as age 50
- A widow or widower at any age if he or she takes care of the deceased's child who is under age 16 or disabled, and receiving Social Security benefits
- Unmarried children under age 18, or up to age 19 if they are attending high school full time. Under certain circumstances, benefits can be paid to stepchildren, grandchildren or adopted children
- Children at any age who were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled
- Dependent parents age 62 or older

A lump-sum death benefit may be paid upon the death of a person who has worked long enough (at least 10 years) to be insured under the Social Security program. The lump-sum death benefit can be paid upon the death of the insured person even if he or she was not receiving retirement or disability benefits at the time of death.

The lump-sum death benefit is limited to:

- A spouse who was living with the worker at the time of death, or

- A spouse who, in the month of death, is eligible for certain Social Security benefits based on the workers record, or
- A child who, in the month of death, is eligible for a Social Security benefit based on the worker's record
- If no spouse or child meeting these requirements exists, then the lump sum death payment will not be paid

Call 1-800-772-1213 to apply for survivor's benefits or the lump-sum death benefit, or contact your local Social Security office. Go to www.ssa.gov to learn what documentation you will need to have to apply for benefits.



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