Social Security Administration Facts

FUNERAL HOMES

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Don't Forget:

Many of Social Security's applications for benefits are now available online at our website:

www.socialsecurity.gov

Did you know?

- 1,899,000 children receive monthly benefits on the record of a deceased parent or parents
- Widow's or widower's benefits can begin as early as age 60 (50 if disabled).
- Survivor benefits are equivalent to a $400,000 life insurance policy for the average worker with a spouse and two children

SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS
HOW TO APPLY

How people sign up for survivor's benefits depends on whether or not they are already receiving Social Security payments. For people who are already receiving Social Security benefits on the deceased person's record as a husband, wife, or child, Social Security will change their payments automatically to survivor benefits upon receiving a notice of death. However, people receiving benefits on their own work record should contact Social Security to find out if they would be en-titled to a higher benefit on the deceased's work record. If so, an application for survivor benefits will have to be completed.

People who are currently receiving Social Security payments should contact Social Security by phone, mail, or in person to file an application for survivor's benefits. This should be done promptly to avoid any loss of benefits. In most areas, Social Security will contact the survivors of a deceased worker once they have received a notice of death from a funeral home (*Form SSA-721, Statement of Death by Funeral Directors*). Call Social Security at **1-800-772-1213**.

IMPORTANT ONLINE SERVICES

This publication is featured on our Internet site, www.socialsecurity.gov/phila. Feel free to use its valuable and timely information. We suggest you even provide a copy to your clients. Our award winning website offers everything from great information to convenient services. By going online, people can sign up for benefits, plan for retirement, get a replacement Medicare Card, and even locate the nearest Social Security office. We offer applications for Social Security cards, benefit verification letters, replacement Form 1099 Social Security benefit statements, and even our all new password services. Go to: **www.socialsecurity.gov**

Documents Needed by Survivors

"Social Security requests original documents or copies certified by the agency that issued them."

Social Security will need certain information to process an application for survivor benefits. Having the proper information available when a person applies is helpful and can speed up the process. However people should not delay contacting Social Security because they don't have all the documentation needed. ***Social Security requests original documents or copies certified by the agency that issued them.***

The kinds of information needed are:

- Proof of death- either from the funeral home or a death certificate
- The deceased's and the applicant's Social Security numbers
- The survivor's birth certificate
- Marriage certificate if a widow, widower, or surviving divorced spouse
- Divorce papers if applying as a surviving divorced spouse
- Social Security numbers of *dependent* children
- The deceased's most recent W-2 Forms or federal self-employment tax return
- Direct deposit information for the survivors including bank account type/number and routing numbers

Thanks To Funeral Homes

We at Social Security extend our sincerest thanks to all Funeral Directors and their staff members who, through their continuous, prompt, and ever vigilant cooperation, have facilitated the access of Social Security benefits by thousands of Americans each month. Your assistance to these families in notifying Social Security of the death of a loved one, during what is one of life's most trying times, is deeply appreciated. By simply completing and submitting Social Security's ***Statement of Death by Funeral Director,*** **Form SSA-721**, in a timely manner, you have enabled Social Security to take prompt action to provide benefits to millions of children, widows, widowers, and other qualified family members of deceased workers. Your cooperation and assistance has enabled Social Security to take appropriate action to cease the payment of benefits, where required, thus protecting millions of tax payer dollars. We truly appreciate the partnership we have formed over the years and the support you have provided in serving the public. Social Security looks forward to continuing this spirit of cooperation and service well into the future. Thank you from all of us at Social Security.

CALL
1-800-772-1213

When Benefits Are Paid

"...the date of birth of a deceased worker will determine the payment date for survivor's benefits..."

Beginning in January 1940 all Social Security benefits were paid on the 3rd day of each month. Effective with all claims filed for Social Security benefits on May 1, 1997 and later, benefits are now paid on a Wednesday each month. Which Wednesday is determined by the date of birth of the worker on whose record the benefits are claimed. If the date of birth of the worker falls between the 1st through the 10th day of the month, benefits on the worker's record will be paid on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. If the worker was born on the 11th through the 20th day of the month, benefit payment is on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Subsequently, if the worker was born on the 21st through the end of the month, payment is on the 4th Wednesday. Therefore, with a few exceptions, the date of birth of a deceased worker will determine the payment date for survivor's benefits paid on his or her work record. Social Security benefits are always paid in the month after they are due. However, monthly benefits are not paid for the month of death. Entitlement ends in the prior month, payment of which will be made in the death month, no matter what week they were due. If a person dies before the prior month's benefit is received, that payment is still due the deceased person's estate or his or her heirs.