



Parent's Benefits

When a worker dies, Social Security benefits help to stabilize the family's financial future. Survivors benefits provide financial support to eligible individuals who depended on the worker's income before the worker's death. Along with the worker's children and spouses, their dependent parents also may be eligible for a survivors benefit.

Who can get parent's benefits?

For a parent to be eligible for a benefit, the following must be true:

- The parent is at least age 62;
- The parent was receiving at least one-half of their support from the deceased worker at the time of death (or at the beginning of the deceased worker's disability);
- The parent has provided timely documents that prove the deceased worker was providing at least one-half of their support;
- The parent is not entitled to a retirement insurance benefit equal to or exceeding the parent's new benefit;
- The parent is the natural parent of the deceased worker (or became the stepparent or adoptive parent before the deceased worker reached the age of 16);
- The parent has not married after the worker's death; and
- The deceased worker had enough work credits.

How much can a parent get?

One parent may receive 82 1/2 percent of the deceased worker's full retirement or disability benefit. If there are two parents who will receive benefits, each may receive 75 percent.

What does a parent who receives benefits need to know?

- The parent's benefit may stop if the parent marries.
- The parent's benefit will stop if the parent becomes entitled to a retirement benefit amount higher than the parent's benefit amount.

Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us anytime, anywhere is to visit www.socialsecurity.gov. There, you can: apply for benefits; open a *my* Social Security account, which you can use to review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, print a benefit verification letter, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, and get a replacement 1099/1042S; obtain valuable information; find publications; get answers to frequently asked questions; and much more.

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

If you need to speak to a person, we can answer your calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience a higher than usual rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.



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