



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 that 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, all of 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 Social Security retirement 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.
- The deceased worker had enough work credits.

How much can a parent get?

One parent may receive 82 ½% of the deceased worker's full retirement or disability benefit. If there are two parents who will receive benefits, each may receive 75%.

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

There are several ways to contact Social Security including online, by mail, by phone, and in person. If you cannot use our online services, we can help you by phone when you call your local Social Security office or our National toll-free 800 Number. You can find your local office information by entering your ZIP code on our office locator webpage.

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so you do not need to speak with a representative. 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.

A member of our staff can answer your call from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. **Wait times to speak to a representative are typically shorter Wednesdays through Fridays or later in the day.**



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