

Social Security Benefits

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov/

This Web site provides consumer and contact information.

Location of nearest Social Security office _____

If the deceased paid into Social Security for at least 40 quarters, two types of benefits are possible:

1. **Death benefit:** \$255 for burial expenses is available to eligible spouses or dependent children. The survivor can complete the necessary form at the local Social Security office, or the funeral director will complete the application and apply the payment directly to the funeral bill.
2. **Survivor's benefits:** A variety of benefits are available, depending on the age and relationship of any survivors. The funeral director also may assist in application for survivor's benefits. You may be eligible for benefits if you match any of the following circumstances:
 - Spouse age 60 or older
 - Disabled surviving spouse age 50 or older
 - Spouse under 60 who cares for dependent children under 16 or disabled children
 - Children of the deceased under the age of 18 or who are disabled.

Social Security benefits are not paid automatically. Survivors must apply and furnish specific documents. To facilitate receiving Social Security benefits, you need the following:

- Marriage certificate
- Birth certificate of deceased
- Children's birth certificate (under 18 only)
- Proof of widow or widower's age, if 62 or older
- Record of income for preceding year
- Proof of termination of any previous marriage
- Death certificate (several may be needed)

Survivors usually will have to wait about two months before they start receiving Social Security benefits.

APPLY TO YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE IN FILING CLAIM. Call (800) 772-1213 for an appointment with the nearest Social Security office to inquire about benefits and eligibility.

IMPORTANT:

If an error should develop concerning your records at the Social Security Administration, it may not be corrected if unchanged for a period of three years and three months. Therefore, check with a Social Security official every three years.

NDSU
Extension Service

North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota 58105

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