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SURVIVORS PLANNER: HOW TO APPLY FOR SURVIVORS BENEFITS

If you are not already getting benefits, you should apply for survivor benefits promptly because, in some cases, benefits may not be retroactive.

To apply, you can:

- Call our toll-free telephone number 1-800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can call us at TTY 1-800-325-0778.
- Call or visit your local Social Security office. Important: If you want to apply in person, please call and make an appointment before you visit your local office.

When you apply, be ready to supply the information needed to approve your application for:

- The Lump-Sum Death Benefit,
- Widows, Widowers, Or Surviving Divorced Spouse Benefits,
- Mother's Or Father's Benefits, (You must be caring for a dependent child of the deceased,)
- Dependent Child,
- Parent's Benefits (You must have been dependent on the worker for 1/2 of your support at the time of his or her death.)

Also, the following documents may be needed:

- Proof of death (either from funeral home or death certificate);
- Your Social Security number, and the deceased family member's number;
- Your birth certificate;
- Your marriage certificate if you are the widow or widower;
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful alien status if you were born outside the United States;

- Your divorce papers if you are applying as a surviving divorced spouse;
- Dependent children's Social Security numbers and birth certificates, if available;
- Deceased worker's most recent W-2 forms or federal self-employment tax return;

The name of your bank and your account number so your benefits can be directly deposited into your account. Public records like your birth certificate and marriage or divorce records must be the originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. Social Security cannot accept uncertified photocopies. They will return the documents to you.

What If You Don't Have All Of The Documents?

If you don't have all the documents you need, don't delay in signing up for Social Security. In many cases, your local Social Security office can contact your state Bureau of Vital Statistics and verify your information online at no cost to you. If they can't verify your information online, they can still help you get the information you need.

**Note: If you do not have a bank account, you can sign up for the Direct Express® card program. With the Direct Express® program, Social Security deposits your federal benefit payment directly into your card account*

**Note: Since every person's situation is different, you cannot apply for survivors benefits online.*

**Note: If you want to apply in person, please call and make an appointment before you visit your local office.*

Welcome to our latest newsletter! As usual, we've been hard at work over the last several months fighting to make sure our clients get the Social Security benefits they deserve. Along the way, we found some interesting and useful information that we wanted to share with you in this edition of our newsletter. For instance, if you know someone who is homeless, or you yourself are living in an institution, you'll want to read our first article on new help available for the homeless when applying for benefits, and how institutional living may affect your SSI benefits.

Of course, if you have questions after reading any of the articles we've included here, or if you would simply like more information on any aspect of the process of fighting for the benefits you deserve, I hope you'll pick up the phone and give us a call. We take pride in our ability to use our experience and expertise to help our clients navigate an often confusing and sometimes frustrating process. Please know that you are not alone: we are here to help, and we are always happy to hear from you!

I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter, and I hope we'll have the opportunity to hear from you soon. Until then, please remember that no matter what kind of obstacles you face, we are here to help you fight—and succeed!

Sincerely,



JAN DILS brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. Her knowledge encompasses vital areas for Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims. With a practice that focuses on the people, Jan Dils ensures you get answers and the right results.

NEW HELP FOR THE HOMELESS APPLYING FOR BENEFITS

If you are homeless, you have the same rights and privileges in applying for benefits as someone who is not homeless. So how do you go about receiving your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits if you are homeless?

You may:

- Have your benefits deposited directly into your personal bank account;
- Have your benefits mailed to a third party;
- Have a relative or other third party be assigned as your representative payee;
- Have your benefits directed to a Direct Express debit bank card.

Does living in an institution affect your SSI benefits?

Yes. Living in a shelter, medical treatment facility, or a correctional facility may affect your SSI benefits. Living in a public institution may make you ineligible for benefits. For further information about institutionalization, please refer to the Spotlights on Living Arrangements (www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-living-arrangements.htm), Continued Benefits for Persons who are Temporarily Institutionalized

(www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-temp-institution.htm), and Prerelease Procedure (www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-prerelease.htm). Also see information on the Representative Payment Program (www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/text-repayee-ussi.htm).

Where to find more information about help for the homeless? Social Security is an active participant in the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). The mission of the USICH is to “coordinate the Federal response to homelessness and to create a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation while maximizing the effectiveness of the Federal Government in contributing to the end of homelessness.” For more information, please visit Social Security’s Homelessness web site at www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness.

For more information, call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), visit www.socialsecurity.gov, or contact your local Social Security Office.

And the Apples Go To...

In the month of May, Jan Dils team member Cheryl Wingrove once again had the pleasure of presenting the Golden Apple Award to an outstanding educator. This time, the honor went to West Virginia History teacher **Kathy Williams**, who inspires students on a daily basis at Jackson Middle School. As the school year's final winner, Mrs. Williams was praised by students and parents alike as a motivating, engaging, and innovative teacher who makes history "come alive" for her students. Mrs. Williams says her inspiration is the desire for students to appreciate our beautiful state. Please join us in congratulating our Golden Apple Award Winner for the month of May for making a difference in the lives of so many children each day!

Congratulations are also in order for Jan Dils team member and new mother **Amanda Greathouse**! Amanda and her husband Matthew welcomed their son Parker David Greathouse to the family on April 16th, 2013. Parker weighed in at 8 lbs 2 oz., and measured 20 inches long. Parker and his family are all happy and healthy!

IT'S TIME TO...

- Thank those who keep our waters safe. **August 4th is U.S. Coast Guard Day.**
- Kick back! **August 15th is Take it Easy Day.**
- Pick up a pen and throw caution to the wind. **August 18th is Bad Poetry Day.**
- Break out the flowered shirt and dance the hula. **August 21st is Hawaii Day.**
- Check under your pillow. **August 22nd is Tooth Fairy Day.**
- Forgive and forget. **August 25th is Kiss and Make Up Day.**
- Celebrate hard work with a day off. **September 2nd is Labor Day.**
- Hit the snooze button, again. **September 5th is Be Late for Something Day.**
- Observe a moment of silence in remembrance. **September 11th is Patriot Day.**
- Spend a day with the Mario Brothers. **September 12th is Video Game Day.**
- Fly your American flag. **September 17th is Citizenship Day.**
- Give thanks for those who gave so much for us. **September 19th is POW/MIA Recognition Day.**

CHUCK'S DIP

**FROM THE KITCHEN OF CHUCK HUGHES
- HUSBAND OF JAN DILS**

Try Chuck's delicious dip at your next party!
This crowd pleaser is easy to whip up.
Mix, eat and enjoy!

YOU'LL NEED

- 2 - 8oz. packages of Philadelphia Cream Cheese
- 1 cup of Pace Picante Sauce (Hot)

DIRECTIONS

Use mixer to blend together. Refrigerate until firm.
Serve with Fritos® Scoops®.



**Historic Facts
About the Social Security
Administration**

- The Social Security Administration (SSA) began life as the Social Security Board (SSB) in 1935.
- The SSB was created at the moment President Roosevelt inked his signature on the Social Security Act (August 14, 1935 at 3:30 p.m.).
- When it was created, the SSB was an entirely new entity, with no staff, no facilities and no budget. The initial personnel were donated from existing agencies, and a temporary budget was obtained from Harry Hopkins and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.
- On 7/16/46 the SSB was renamed the Social Security Administration under the President's Reorganization Plan of 1946.
- On 4/11/53 President Eisenhower abolished the FSA and created a new Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). SSA was made part of this new cabinet agency.
- HEW was replaced by the Department of Health & Human Services on 5/4/80. SSA was a major part of HHS until legislation signed by President Clinton on 8/15/94 returned SSA to its original status as an independent agency-- effective 3/31/95.

Source: www.ssa.gov/history/orghist.html

**WUZZLE:
TAKE THE CHALLENGE**

What's a wuzzle you ask? A wuzzle is a saying/phrase that is made up of a display of words, in an interesting way. The object is to try to figure out the well-known saying, person, place, or thing that each wuzzle is meant to represent.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| BUS INESS BUS INESS BUS INESS BUS INESS | tiLEVARTme | O O F F F F |
| the people | ATHALON ATHALON ATHALON | HAHANDND |

This issue's solution: 1. Open for business, 2. Travel Back in Time, 3. Off Sides, 4. We the People, 5. Triathlon, 6. Hand in Hand



SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS & BEYOND

Q3 NEWSLETTER

We Won't Take NO For An Answer®

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WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY



Parents play a critical role in the success of the Social Security program. The program is designed to ensure continuing income to families when a worker retires, dies or becomes disabled.

To get the most of Social Security's family protection features, it's important that you as a parent are aware of such things as who can get benefits on your Social Security record, how to build Social Security credits over your working life, and how to obtain and use Social Security information in planning family financial security.

Baby's First Number

Getting your child a Social Security number should be near the top of the list of things you need to do as a new parent. Your child's Social Security number is just the beginning of the valuable protection and benefits he or she may be eligible for in the future. Applying for a Social Security card and number for your newborn is voluntary, but your child needs a Social Security number if you plan to:

- Claim your child as a dependent on your income tax return;
- Open a bank account;
- Buy savings bonds;
- Obtain medical coverage; or
- Apply for some kind of government services for your child.

You can apply when the baby is born or you can wait until later. It's easy to apply at birth. When you give the information for your baby's birth certificate, you'll be asked if you want to apply for a Social Security number for your baby. If you say "yes," you'll need to provide both parents' Social Security numbers. Social Security will assign your baby a number and mail the Social Security card directly to you.