

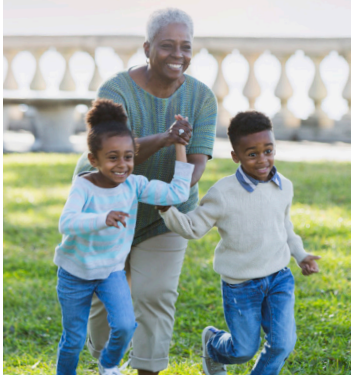
# Social Security Benefits for Children After the Death of a Parent



## Who is eligible for survivors benefits as a child?

If a young person you teach, work with, or care for experiences the death of a parent, they may be eligible for monthly Social Security survivors benefit payments. Under certain circumstances, we can also pay benefits to married children, stepchildren, adopted children, grandchildren, and step-grandchildren.

Child survivor benefits are generally paid until age 18 or high school graduation. In addition, adults who were disabled before age 22 can receive childhood survivors benefits at any age.



## Why are survivors benefits important?

The death of a parent can affect a child's emotional and behavioral health, financial situation, and academic achievement in school. Social Security benefits can help provide support during these difficult times.

## What is the average monthly survivors benefit amount?

A child receiving survivors benefits can get about \$1,100 each month (as of September 2024).



## How to apply for survivors benefits?

The Social Security application for survivors benefits is not available online. Applications are completed either by phone or in person at a local Social Security office.

To set up an appointment, call us at **1-800-772-1213** (TTY: **1-800-325-0778**) between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Wait times to speak to a representative are typically shorter early in the day (before 10 a.m.) or later in the afternoon (after 4 p.m.). The wait is also shorter later in the week (Wednesday to Friday) and later in the month. We can usually schedule an appointment in 30 to 60 days.

The person who calls should have the Social Security number of the worker who died. Our representatives can provide any additional information needed for their appointment.



## When to apply for survivors benefits?

It's important for the child's family to contact Social Security as soon as possible. The date they contact us to file an application can affect when the child's benefits will begin.

For more information, visit <https://www.ssa.gov/survivor>.

