

Social Security Benefits for Surviving Parents



Who is eligible for survivors benefits as a parent?

Do you know someone who was financially supported by their adult child who died, or a parent who is caring for a child of a deceased worker? They may be eligible for monthly Social Security survivors benefit payments.

Surviving dependent parents supported by their adult child must be at least age 62 or older to be eligible for benefits.

Monthly benefits for a parent caring for a child who receives Social Security survivors benefits will continue until the child reaches age 16. Benefits will continue if the child has a disability, and the parent continues to take care of the child.

Why are survivors benefits important?

The death of an adult child who was supporting a parent, or a parent caring for a child of a deceased worker can create a financial burden on surviving dependents. Social Security benefits can help provide support during these difficult times.

What is the average monthly survivors benefit amount?

As of September 2024, a surviving dependent parent receiving survivor benefits can get about \$1,600 per month, and a parent caring for a child of a deceased worker receiving survivor benefits can get about \$1,300 per month.

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 dependent parent or a parent with a child in their care to contact Social Security as soon as possible. The date they contact us to file an application can affect when benefits will begin.

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