



# How to Apply Online for Retirement, Spouses or Medicare Benefits

It's so easy! Just go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline)

**Apply for Benefits**  
The Official Website of the U.S. Social Security Administration

OMB No. 0960-0618  
Paperwork Reduction Act

**Apply Online for Retirement/Medicare Benefits**

**Getting Ready**  
Before you start your application, we recommend that you take a moment to prepare yourself by reviewing a few items:

1. Make sure you meet the requirements to apply online for Retirement/Medicare;
2. Gather all of the information you need to complete the application process.

**Apply & Complete**  
Applying for Retirement/Medicare may take between **10 to 30 minutes** to complete depending on your situation. You can save your application as you go, so you can take a break at any time.

or

**Follow Up**  
After you're finished, we will contact you with any updates or questions we may have about your information. You can go to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) and sign in or create a *my* Social Security account to check the status of your completed application.

**Video Introduction**  
Helpful hints for applying online  
1 minute

**More Information**

- When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits
- Other Ways To Apply for Benefits
- Your Right to Representation

**Your privacy is important.**  
For details about our use of your information, we encourage you to read our Privacy Act Statement.

## Apply Online for Retirement/Spouses/Medicare Benefits

Select:

- “Start a New Application,” or
- “Return to Saved Application Process.”

## Questions About You

- Name;
- Social Security number;
- Date of birth; and
- Gender.

**Information About Applicant**

**Your Name:**  
Please provide the name as it appears on the most recent Social Security card.

First Middle Last Suffix

**Social Security Number (SSN):**

**Date of Birth:**

Month Day Year

**Gender:**

Male  Female

**Are you blind?**

## Re-entry Number

When you have successfully started your application, you will get a re-entry number that you can use to:

- Continue your application later if you need a break.

**Apply for Benefits**  
The Official Website of the U.S. Social Security Administration

Identification General Other Benefits Remarks Review & Sign

**You must print this page or write down the re-entry number.**

Re-entry Number **99422348**

If something causes you to exit or you choose to save and return at a later time, you must use this number to continue your saved application process.

If you lose your re-entry number, log into your *my* Social Security account, or register for an account, to view your re-entry number. Social Security employees will never ask for your re-entry number, or will have access to it. This is to protect your privacy.

**In this section...**

- Applicant Identification
- Contact Information
- Birth and Citizenship
- Medicare Information
- Re-entry Number**
- Other SSNs and Names

**Social Security**  
The Official Website of the U.S. Social Security Administration

Apply for Benefits

Identification General **Other Benefits** Remarks Review & Sign

**Total Earnings for 2016**

Show the total of all wages and tips earned in 2016. [More Info](#)  
Estimate if necessary.  
\$

Did you earn more than \$3490 a month in wages and tips in every month of 2016? [More Info](#)  
 Yes  No

Did you work outside the United States for salary, wages, or self-employment in 2016?  
 Yes  No

**Total Earnings for 2017**

Show the total of all wages and tips that will be earned in 2017. [More Info](#)  
Estimate if necessary.  
\$

Will you earn more than \$3740 a month in wages and tips in every month of 2017? [More Info](#)  
 Yes  No

**In this section...**

- Marriage Information
- Prior Marriages
- Children
- Military Details
- Employer Details
- Self-Employment Details
- Supplemental Information
- Total Earnings**
- Other Pensions/Annuities
- When to Start Retirement Benefits
- Direct Deposit Details

## Questions About Your Work

- Employment;
- Self-employment;
- Military service;
- Work for a government agency; and
- Work history.

## Questions About Your Benefits

- When you want your Social Security benefits to start; and
- Other benefits you may receive.

**Social Security**  
The Official Website of the U.S. Social Security Administration

Apply for Benefits

Identification General **Other Benefits** Remarks Review & Sign

**When to Start Retirement Benefits for John Public**

It's your choice when to start retirement benefits. The earlier the date you start your benefits, the smaller your benefit. The later the date you start to receive benefits, the larger your benefit. This is an important decision, with several factors to consider before you choose the month your benefits should start. [More Info](#)

If you have applied for, or are currently receiving, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you must select the earliest possible month that you are eligible for benefits. An SSI recipient is required to pursue all other benefits when first eligible.

We have an estimator that can show you what your benefit amount will be under various scenarios. You may wish to end this session and go there now. You will be able to return and continue where you left off. The information you have already entered will be saved.

[Go to Estimator](#)

We need to know when you want to start benefits.

**Do you want benefits to start in 10/2015?**  
 Yes  No (Your other available options are 04/2015 to 02/2016.)

**If you are eligible for both retirement benefits and spouse's benefit, do you want to delay receipt of retirement benefit?** [More Info](#)  
If you are full retirement age and we determine that you are eligible to receive both a retirement benefit and a spouse's benefit, you may choose to delay receiving your own retirement benefit and receive only the spouse's benefit for now.  
 Yes  No

**In this section...**

- Marriage Information
- Prior Marriages
- Children
- Military Details
- Employer Details
- Self-Employment Details
- Supplemental Information
- Total Earnings
- Other Pensions/Annuities
- When to Start Retirement Benefits**
- Direct Deposit Details

**Social Security**  
The Official Website of the U.S. Social Security Administration

Apply for Benefits

Identification **General** Other Benefits Remarks Review & Sign

**Review Information for John Public**

If you need to make any changes, please select the "Edit" button to return to that page.

**Identification**

[Edit](#)  Applicant Identification

Name: **John Q Public**  
Social Security Number: \*\*\*\*-\*\*-0309  
Date of Birth: **January 3, 1946**  
Gender: **Male**  
Blind: **No**  
Disabled: **No**

[Edit](#)  Applicant's Contact Information

**Contact Information**

Mailing Address: **1234 First Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21201**  
Reside at this address: **Yes**  
Phone: **(410) 325-8779 Home**  
Best time to call: **Anytime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.**  
Email Address:  
Confirm Email Address:

**In this section...**

- Overall Summary**

## Review Your Information and Finish Your Application

- Sign your application by selecting the "Submit Now" button;
- Get a Confirmation Number;
- Get a receipt for your application;
- Get information on what to do next; and
- Receive a list of documents you may need to show us.

## Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us anytime, anywhere is to visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) where you can also take care of some business with an online *my* Social Security account.

Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at **1-800-325-0778 (TTY)** if you're deaf or hard of hearing. We can answer your calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., week days. Or use our automated services via telephone, 24 hours a day. We look forward to serving you.



Securing today  
and tomorrow

**Social Security Administration**  
Publication No. 05-10523 | ICN 470140 | Unit of Issue — HD (one hundred)  
August 2017 (June 2016 edition may be used)  
How to Apply Online for Retirement, Spouses or Medicare Benefits  
Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense