

Social Security

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

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Qualifying for divorced spouse benefits

How does a divorced spouse qualify for benefits?

A person can receive benefits as a divorced spouse on a former spouse's Social Security record if he or she:

- Was married to the former spouse for at least 10 years;
- Is at least age 62 years old;
- Is unmarried; and
- Is not entitled to a higher Social Security benefit on his or her own record.

In addition, the former spouse must be entitled to receive his or her own retirement or disability benefit. If the former spouse is eligible for a benefit, but has not yet applied for it, the divorced spouse can still receive a benefit if he or she meets the eligibility requirements above and has been divorced from the former spouse for at least two years.

Generally, we cannot pay benefits if the divorced spouse remarries someone other than the former spouse, unless the latter marriage ends (whether by death, divorce, or annulment), or the marriage is to a person entitled to certain types of Social Security auxiliary or survivor's benefits.

A person can receive benefits as a surviving divorced spouse on the Social Security record of a former spouse who died fully insured, if he or she:

- Is at least age 60, or age 50 and disabled;
- Was married to the former spouse for at least 10 years; and
- Is not entitled to a higher Social Security benefit on his or her own record.

If the surviving divorced spouse age 60 or over applying for benefits remarried after age 60, or after age 50 and at the time of remarriage was entitled to disability benefits, we disregard the marriage. If a person is already entitled to benefits as an aged or disabled surviving divorced spouse and remarries, benefits continue regardless of the person's age at the time of remarriage.

The benefits paid to a divorced spouse or a surviving divorced spouse will not affect the benefit amount paid to other family members who receive benefits on the same record.

If you would like to receive an estimate of benefits you may receive as a divorced spouse or a surviving divorced spouse, you may contact our representatives at our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. They may be able to provide you with this information over the telephone. If you prefer, you may visit one of our offices. You can get the address and directions to your nearest office from the [Social Security Office Locator](#)

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Benefit amount for divorced spouse

How much will I get in monthly benefits based on the record of my divorced spouse?

The most a spouse or a divorced spouse will get is 50 percent of the worker's benefit when the worker reaches full retirement age. However, we will reduce your benefits if you retire before your spouse reaches full retirement age.

More Information

[Information You Need To Apply For Spouse's Or Divorced Spouse's Benefits](#)

[Survivors Planner: If You're The Worker's Surviving Divorced Spouse](#)

[How To Apply Online For Retirement Benefits](#)

[Retirement Planner: Benefits For You As A Spouse](#)

[Retirement Planner: Benefits by Year of Birth](#)

[Qualifying for Divorced Spouse Benefits](#)