

# Solutions, Strategies, Answers

Newsletter of the Social Security Administration Offices in  
Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton and Philadelphia counties

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



## Get Replacement Social Security Tax Forms Online with Ease

Each January, Social Security mails an SSA-1099, also called a Benefit Statement, to the more than 60 million people who receive Social Security benefits.

This tax form shows the total amount of benefits received from Social Security in the previous year so that people know how much Social Security income to report to the Internal Revenue Service on their tax return.

For noncitizens who live outside of the United States and who received or repaid Social Security benefits last year, we will send form SSA-1042S instead.

If you misplace your Benefit Statement, or have not received it by the end of January, you will be able to request a replacement form using a *my Social Security* account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Online replacement forms are available beginning February 1, 2017. The forms SSA-1099 and SSA-1042S are *not* available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).



## File an Appeal Online for *Non-Medical* Issues

Social Security has a new way to conduct business with us online. You no longer need to visit our offices or call us to appeal a denial or adverse action related to your benefits. As of December 10, 2016, you can file an appeal online for non-medical issues even if you live outside the United States. Examples of non-medical appeals include those for overpayments and Medicare premium rates.

The online appeals application is simple, convenient, and secure; it guides you through every step of the process. From outlining your rights to an appeal, to publications on the appeals process, a fair review of your case is right at your fingertips. The online application also lets you upload supporting documentation and save your submission.

Submitting your appeal and necessary documents online will save time and can help expedite the decision. Here are some things you will need when you are ready to submit an appeal:

- Notice date or receipt from Social Security that explains what adverse action you wish to appeal;
- Supporting documentation that you wish to add to your request for appeal.

Learn more by reading our publication:  
*Your Right To Question The Decision Made On Your Claim.*



**Q: How does Social Security differ from private sector disability coverage?**

**A:** Eligibility rules for Social Security's disability program differ from those of private plans or other government agencies. Social Security does not provide temporary or partial disability benefits, such as workers' compensation or veterans' benefits do.

To receive disability benefits, a person must meet the definition of disability under the Social Security Act (Act). A person is disabled under the Act if he or she cannot work due to a severe medical condition that has lasted, or is expected to last, at least one year or result in death.

The person's medical condition must prevent him or her from doing work that he or she did in the past, and it must prevent the person from adjusting to other work

<https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityfacts/facts.html>

**Q: What is the full retirement age if I am born in 1955?**

**A:** Full Retirement Age is the age at which a person may first become entitled to full or unreduced benefits. For individuals born in 1955, your Full Retirement Age is **66 and 2 months**.

The earliest a person can start receiving Social Security retirement benefits is age 62. You can retire at any time between age 62 and full retirement age.

However, if you start benefits early, your benefits are reduced a fraction of a percent for each month before your full retirement age.

If you were born in **1955** and you start receiving retirement benefits at age 62, you will get **74.2%** of the monthly benefit because you will be getting benefits for an additional 50 months before full retirement age.

<https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/1955.html>

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**Improved Service to Check Your Application or Appeal Status**

In December, Social Security launched a new service for **my Social Security** account holders. The public can now check the status of an application for benefits or an appeal filed with Social Security.

This new addition to the **my Social Security** suite of services provides detailed information about retirement, disability, survivors, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income claims and appeals filed either online at [socialsecurity.gov](https://www.socialsecurity.gov) or with a Social Security employee.

The service will provide important information about your claim or appeal, including:

- Date of filing;
- Current claim location;
- Scheduled hearing date and time;
- Re-entry numbers for incomplete applications;
- Servicing office location; and
- Claim or appeal decision.

You can still check the status of your benefit applications by calling 1-800-772-1213, and providing the confirmation number you received when you filed your claim.

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](https://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

**OFFICE CLOSINGS AND EMERGENCIES**

For information on Social Security office closures, safety preparedness in case of emergencies, signing up for direct deposit of your benefit payments, and more, go to <https://www.ssa.gov/agency/emergency/>

The page is updated every 10 minutes,

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