

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for retirement or old age insurance benefits, a person must be fully insured and 60 years of age or older by 09/31/2015, or age 62 by Oct. 1, 2015 or. 63 by Oct. 1 2020.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "FULLY INSURED"?

To be "fully insured", a person must have contributed at least 38 quarters of taxable wages to the Social Security program. Since there are 4 quarters in a year, this means that a person must have worked at least 9 years and 6 months to qualify as "fully insured".

As shown in the table below, exceptions are made to those born before June 1946.

DATE OF BIRTH	NUMBER OF QUARTERS NEEDED TO BE FULLY INSURED
July 1939 - June 1940	31
July 1940 - June 1941	32
July 1941 - June 1942	33
July 1942 - June 1943	34
July 1943 - June 1944	35
July 1944 - June 1945	36
July 1945 - June 1946	37
After June 1946	38

HOW CAN I APPLY?

To apply, please fill out an Application for Retirement Insurance Benefits and submit it along with the required documents as listed in the application. Applications are available at SS Office or at www.ropssa.org

HOW LONG CAN I RECEIVE RETIREMENT BENEFITS?

Once eligible, a person can receive monthly retirement insurance benefit until the month before he/she dies. However, this is subject to change if a beneficiary decides to return to work. The next question discusses how benefits will be affected if you return to work.

WILL MY BENEFITS BE AFFECTED IF I RETURN TO WORK?

If you return to work, it is your responsibility to notify the Social Security Administration immediately. When returning to employment, your benefits will be recomputed at the end of the calendar year and the recomputed benefit will be paid on the first month of the next calendar year. However, if you earn more than a specific amount, your benefits could be reduced. For more information, a separate brochure entitled "Earnings Test" has been prepared and is available at the Social Security Administration office.

IF I AM RECEIVING SP BENEFIT, CAN I ALSO RECEIVE ANOTHER TYPE OF INSURANCE BENEFIT?

Yes. The most recent change to the Social Security Act does allow a beneficiary to receive two types of benefits. So spouse insurance beneficiaries who are 60 yrs old may be eligible to receive retirement benefits; or if SP is under the age of sixty (60) years old, he/she may be eligible to receive disability insurance benefits. In addition, if a surviving spouse beneficiary is eligible to receive another benefit, such beneficiary shall have the option to receive both benefits on a monthly basis,

or to receive either benefit in one lump sum while continuing to receive the other benefit on a monthly basis.

HOW ARE MONTHLY RETIREMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS CALCULATED?

First, the "Basic Benefit" applicable to the deceased wage earner must be determined. The "Basic Benefit" is a monthly payment that is one-twelfth (1/12) of the total of:

1. 27% of the first \$11,000.00 of cumulative covered earnings; and
2. 2.9% of cumulative covered earnings in excess of \$11,000.00 but not in excess of the next \$33,000.00; and
3. 1.5% of cumulative covered earnings in excess of \$44,000.00.
4. .75% of anything in excess of \$500,000.00

Below is a sample of how to calculate benefits for an eligible retiree with cumulative covered earnings of \$ 80,000.00:

BASIC MONTHLY BENEFIT:

\$4,467.00 / 12 mos. = \$372.25

FORMULA:	TOTAL:
\$11,000 x 27%	\$ 2,970.00
\$33,000 x 2.9%	\$ 957.00
\$36,000 x 1.5%	\$ 540.00
.75%	
TOTAL:	\$ 4,467.00

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important to immediately notify us in person whenever you change your name, address, bank account, benefit payee, or whether you are married or divorced, caring for a child who receives benefits, or if you adopt a child. You must also notify the Social Security Administration if you are residing overseas, whether or not you may be working.

Information you give to another government agency may be provided to the Social Security Administration by the other agency, but you also must report the changes to us.

Failure to report a change may result in an overpayment. If you are overpaid, we will recover any payments not due you. Also, if you fail to report changes timely or you make a false statement, you can be penalized by a deduction from payments, a fine, imprisonment or all three.

IF YOU DISAGREE WITH A DECISION WE MAKE

If you disagree with a decision we make, you have the right to request that your claim be reconsidered by the Board of Trustees. You must submit your request in writing to the Social Security Administration within 30 days after the date you were notified of our decision. If you are still not satisfied, there are further steps you can take after reconsideration. You have the right to be represented by an attorney or other qualified person of your choice in any business with us. We do not require you to have an attorney or other representative, but we will be glad to work with one if you wish.

THE DEATH OF A BENEFICIARY

When a beneficiary dies, his/her benefit is not payable for the month of death. For example, if a beneficiary died any time in July, he/she will not be entitled for the money received in August. That payment must be returned. The Social Security Administration must be notified of the death as soon as possible.

PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

Protecting your privacy is important to us. Unless authorized, we will not disclose any of your personal information, including your Social Security number, to anyone else.

IF YOU ARE A NON-CITIZEN OF PALAU

If you are not a citizen or national of the Republic of Palau, you can receive benefits as long as you are living within the Republic of Palau. However, if you have relocated outside of Palau, you can only receive benefits up to six months. In order to continue to receive benefits, non-citizens of Palau must report to the Social Security Administration office every six months.

Citizens of the United States, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshalls are treated as Palauan citizens.

For other information, please see the brochure entitled "Frequently Asked Questions and Important Reminders for all Beneficiaries" available at the Social Security Administration office .

**Republic of Palau
Social Security Administration**

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**Republic of Palau
Social Security Administration**

**RETIREMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS**