

Understanding Social Security

Social Security timeline

When you're considering Social Security, it's important to know key ages* that may prompt decisions and actions on your part. Below is a timeline for your reference.

Ages 0–18	A child may receive benefits on a retired parent's record or survivor benefits for a deceased parent.
Ages 25–60	Review your Social Security Statement annually for accuracy. Contact your financial professional for help locating this information or visit ssa.gov .
Age 60	Reduced survivor benefits are available.
Age 61	Contact your financial professional to perform a benefits estimate as part of your annual financial planning review.
Age 61 yrs., 9 mos.	You may file for benefits on your own record, a spouse's record or an ex-spouse's record.
Age 62	You may begin receiving reduced benefits on your own record, a spouse's record or an ex-spouse's record. Annual benefits are reduced because you have not reached full retirement age.
Age 64 yrs., 9 mos.	You're eligible to file for Medicare. Starting now, you have a 7-month initial enrollment period, after which, you may be required to pay a higher premium for late enrollment.
Age 65	You've reached full retirement age and the end of earnings limits if you were born in 1937 or earlier. You're now eligible for your full benefit amount. For those born between 1938 and 1960, the full retirement age adjusts upward.
Age 65 yrs., 4 mos.	Four months after your 65th birthday marks the mandatory deadline to file for Medicare. After this deadline, you can sign up during the general enrollment period between January 1 and March 31 each year. Premiums may be higher for late enrollment.
Age 66	You've reached full retirement age and the end of earnings limits if you were born between 1943 and 1954.
Age 67	You've reached your full retirement age and the end of earnings limits if you were born in 1960 or later.
Age 70	Your Social Security benefit amount will no longer increase if you've delayed taking benefits to receive a higher annual amount. There is no further benefit for delaying your benefits any longer.

Additional information on next page.

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Your financial professional can help you see the bigger picture when it comes to Social Security, Medicare and your retirement. For more information, contact your financial professional or visit ssa.gov.

Source: ssa.gov

*Where disability is involved, age restrictions are different—consult the Social Security Administration Web site for details on the full scope of benefits available to the disabled.

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