

Survivor Social Security Benefit Process: How eligible Survivors apply and receive the Social Security benefit

No.	Activity/Decision Point Name	Description	Regulations and Supporting Resources	Documents and Forms	Systems	Notes
1	Eligible to receive Social Security monthly payment?	Beneficiary may be eligible to receive Social Security benefit. The following are eligible to receive Social Security benefit: - A widow or widower (full benefits at full retirement age, or reduced benefits as early as age 60) - A disabled widow or widower as early as age 50 - A widow or widower at any age if taking care of the deceased's child who is under age 16 or disabled, and receiving Social Security benefits - Unmarried children under age 18 or up to age 19 if they are attending high school full time (under some circumstances, benefits can be paid to stepchildren, grandchildren, or adopted children) - Children at any age who were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled - Dependent parent(s) age 62 or older	Army Casualty Notification and Assistance Guide Social Security Administration Website			
2	Schedule appointment with Social Security office	Beneficiary schedules an appointment with Social Security office by calling 1-800-772-1213.	Army Casualty Notification and Assistance Guide Social Security Administration Website			If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) assists the beneficiary in this step.
3	Status of beneficiary?	Beneficiary may be a widow/widower, child, or a parent of the deceased.	Social Security Administration Website			

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4	Obtain necessary documentation	<p>If the beneficiary is a widow/widower, they must obtain the following documentation to provide eligibility to receive benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birth certificate - Naturalization papers - U.S. military discharge paper(s) - W-2 form(s) and/or self-employment tax returns for last year - Marriage certificate 	Social Security Administration Website			If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the CAO assists the beneficiary in this step.
5	Meet with Social Security office	A Social Security office representative meets with the widow/widower. They may ask the widow/widower to provide the necessary documentation. In cases of a casualty, they may ask a series of questions about the casualty.	Social Security Administration Website			If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the CAO assists the beneficiary in this step.
6	Obtain necessary documentation	<p>If the beneficiary is a child, they must obtain the following documentation to provide eligibility to receive benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birth certificate - Naturalization papers - U.S. military discharge paper(s) - W-2 form(s) and/or self-employment tax returns for last year 	Social Security Administration Website			If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the CAO assists the beneficiary in this step.
7	Meet with Social Security office	A Social Security office representative meets with the child. They may ask the child to provide the necessary documentation. In cases of a casualty, they may ask a series of questions about the casualty.	Social Security Administration Website			If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the CAO assists the beneficiary in this step.

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8	Obtain necessary documentation	<p>If the beneficiary is a parent, they must obtain the following documentation to provide eligibility to receive benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birth certificate - Naturalization papers - U.S. military discharge paper(s) - W-2 form(s) and/or self-employment tax returns for last year - Death certificate for the deceased child 	Social Security Administration Website			If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the CAO assists the beneficiary in this step.
9	Meet with Social Security office	A Social Security office representative meets with the parent(s). They may ask the parent(s) to provide the necessary documentation. In cases of a casualty, they may ask a series of questions about the casualty.	Social Security Administration Website			If the Soldier was on active duty at the time of the death, the CAO assists the beneficiary in this step.
10	Receive Social Security monthly payment	Beneficiary receives Social Security monthly payment. Social Security Administration determines the payment amount. Payments are normally received by direct deposit.	Social Security Administration Website			
11	Eligible to receive Social Security one time payment?	Beneficiary may be eligible to receive Social Security onetime payment. Surviving spouse who was living with the Soldier at the time of death is eligible to receive payment. If there is no surviving spouse, the payment is given to the child or children who are eligible to receive monthly Social Security payments. If there is more than one eligible child, the payment is divided evenly.	Social Security Administration Website	A Survivor's Guide to Benefits: Taking Care of Our Families		

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12	Receive Social Security one time payment	Beneficiary receives up to \$255 in a one time Social Security payment.	Social Security Administration Website	A Survivor's Guide to Benefits: Taking Care of Our Families		