



PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network
News
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OREGON HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

Join Partnership Project at **PRIDE**
on Saturday June 18th and Sunday, June 19th
from 12-6 p.m. at our booth at R6
(close to the Morrison Bridge)

Next Meeting

**No meeting in
June**

Next Meeting

July 12th

Come by and say hi and see what we have to share with you!



June 23 is Bites for Rights day in Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon's annual celebration of all the restaurants, bars, coffee shops, bakeries and eateries that help to make life sweet and delectable for LGBTQ Oregonians through their support of equality. basicrights.org/bfr is your stop for more than 100 #BFR businesses throughout the state of Oregon.

Be sure to support one of these #BFR businesses in your area all year long!

Check out the participating restaurants in cities around Oregon at basicrights.org/bfr



GETTING MARRIED SOON? GIVE SOCIAL SECURITY YOUR NEW NAME

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



Every year, June marks the beginning of two busy seasons: summer and “wedding season.” With joyful expectation, many of us have already marked our calendars and started wrapping up our plans for the vacations, ceremonies, and honeymoons. While the betrothed work out the details, Social Security wants to remind them about one detail that’s extremely important: the “record” Social Security keeps of your life’s earnings.

For many people, a wedding often means a name change is in order. If you are legally changing your name, you need to apply for a replacement Social Security card reflecting your new name. If you’re working, also tell your employer. That way, Social Security can keep track of your earnings history as you go about living your wonderful new life.

If you have reported income under your former or maiden name, and didn’t inform us of a change, we might not have received an accurate W-2 and your earnings may have been recorded incorrectly. This is easier to fix now — when you first change your name — than years from now when you retire, when it may cause delays in receiving your benefits. This is important because we base your future benefits on your earnings record. So, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber, or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), to find out what specific documents you need to change your name and to apply for a replacement card.

Last year, the Supreme Court issued a decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, holding that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry regardless of where they live within the United States. As a result, Social Security recognizes more same-sex couples as married for purposes of determining entitlement to Social Security benefits or eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. We recently updated instructions for employees to process claims and appeals when a determination of marital status is necessary.

With these changing rules, we encourage anyone who believes they may be eligible for benefits to apply now. You can learn more about our policies for same-sex couples at www.ssa.gov/people/same-sex-couples.

After the honeymoon, you can focus on your career or starting a family, moving to a new home, and securing a well-deserved retirement. Now, you’re all set. Let the celebrations begin

MEN'S HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



This year, we observe National Men's Health Week from June 13 to 19. It so happens that Father's Day falls on the last day of Men's Health Week, a perfect time for focusing on health education and awareness, disease prevention, and family.

Social Security encourages you to support fathers and friends everywhere in their efforts to stay healthy. The right balance of diet, exercise, regular visits to doctors and health care providers, and overall healthy living can go a long way to help everyone remain a part of your daily life for years to come.

Part of staying healthy and happy is reducing the amount of stress in your life. That's where opening a *my Social Security* online account can help. Our online services make doing business with us fast and easy. At *my Social Security*, you can:

- Keep track of your earnings and verify them every year;
- Get an estimate of your future benefits, if you are still working;
- Get a letter with proof of your benefits, if you currently receive them; and
- Manage your benefits:
 - Change your address;
 - Start or change your direct deposit;
 - Request a replacement Medicare card; and
 - Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.

In some states, you can even request a replacement Social Security card online using *my Social Security*. Currently available in the District of Columbia, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin, it's an easy, convenient, and secure way to request a replacement card online. We continue to add more states, so we encourage you to check www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber to see where the service is available.

Tell dad to check out the healthy amount of features we have to offer at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

In addition to using *my Social Security*, there are a number of other things you can do online with Social Security. For example, you can use the *Retirement Estimator* to plug in different numbers, retirement dates, and scenarios to help you decide the best time for you to retire. It's available at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

And when that time comes, you can apply for retirement benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/about.htm. It can take as little as 15 minutes from start to finish. In most cases, once you submit your electronic application, that's it, you're done—no papers to sign or documents to submit.

Learn more about Social Security retirement benefits by reading our publication on the subject at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

When you're ready to retire, the best place to apply is from the comfort of your home computer, with some of your favorite music playing in the background. Now that's a great start to a healthy retirement!

Social Security Q & A

Question: Although I stopped working a few years ago, I had additional seasonal earnings after my retirement. Will my monthly Social Security retirement benefit increase?

Answer: Possibly. And, you can get Social Security retirement or survivors benefits and work at the same time. Each year, we review the records for all working Social Security recipients to see if additional earnings may increase their monthly benefit amounts. If an increase is due, we calculate a new benefit amount and pay the increase retroactive to January following the year of earnings. You can learn more about how work affects your benefits by reading our publication, *How Work Affects Your Benefits*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Question: When a person who has worked and paid Social Security taxes dies, are benefits payable on that person's record?

Answer: Social Security survivors benefits can be paid to:

A widow or widower — unreduced 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 he or she takes care of the deceased's child who is under age 16 or disabled, and receiving Social Security benefits;

Unmarried children under 18, or up to age 19 if they are attending high school full time. Under certain circumstances, benefits can be paid to stepchildren, grandchildren or adopted children;

Children at any age who were disabled before age 22 and remain disabled; and

Dependent parents age 62 or older.

Even if you are divorced, you still may qualify for survivors benefits. For more information, go to www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: I'm going to visit relatives outside the country for two weeks. Can I still get Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) payments while I'm there?

Answer: Your SSI usually will stop if you leave the United States for 30 consecutive days or more. Since you are going to be away for only two weeks, your SSI should not be affected. However, it's important that you tell Social Security the date you plan to leave and the date you plan to come back, no matter how long you expect your travel to last. Then we can let you know whether your SSI will be affected. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORTS NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs



In 2016, more than a million people will be diagnosed with cancer around the world. This alarming statistic affects people and families everywhere. On June 5, 2016, we observe National Cancer Survivors Day in the United States. In support of this day, Social Security encourages getting checkups to provide early detection, raise awareness through education, and recognize the survivors who have gone through this battle or are still living with the disease.

Social Security stands strong in our support of the fight against cancer. We offer services to patients dealing with this disease through our disability program and our Compassionate Allowances program. Compassionate Allowances are cases with medical conditions so severe they obviously meet Social Security's disability standards, allowing us to process the cases quickly with minimal medical information. Many cancers are on our Compassionate Allowance list.

There's no special application or form you need to submit for Compassionate Allowances. Simply apply for disability benefits using the standard Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application. Once we identify you as having a Compassionate Allowances condition, we'll expedite your disability application.

Social Security establishes new Compassionate Allowances conditions using information received at public outreach hearings, from the Social Security and Disability Determination Services communities, from medical and scientific experts, and from data based on our research. For more information about Compassionate Allowances, including the list of eligible conditions, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

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This issue, and issues from January 2011 on, can be found electronically [here](#)