




Social Security

5 Important Questions to Ask Before You Claim

5 Important questions

- 1 When should I claim (vs. when can I claim)?
 - 2 How can I claim retirement benefits?
 - 3 Where do I get information?
 - 4 What do I need to get my benefits?
 - 5 Where does Social Security fit in my plan?
- 



Q1. When should I claim
(vs. when can I claim)?

What is the earliest age you can claim Social Security?

60
62
65
67
70

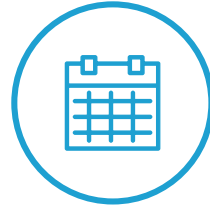
Everyone knows the earliest age to claim, but is that the right time for you?



**How much income
do you need?**



**What other
income sources
are available?**



**The longer your
wait, the higher
the benefit**



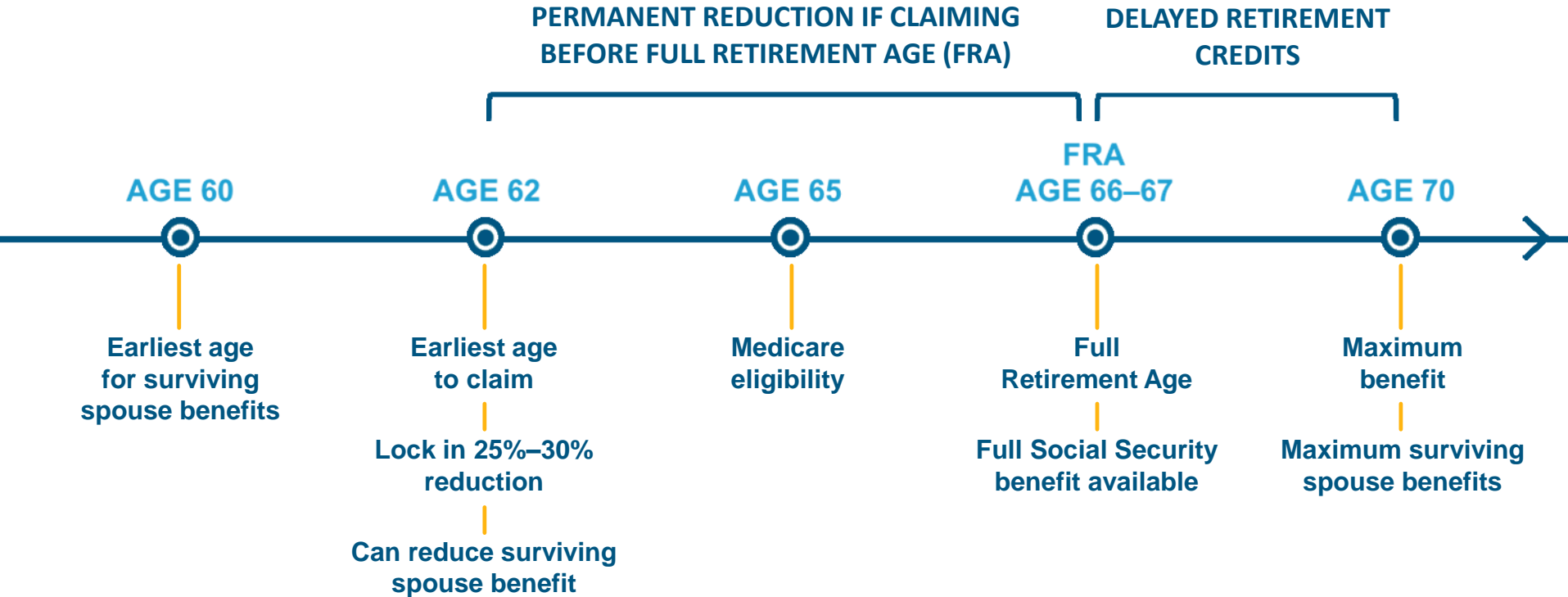
**Consider
life expectancy and
longevity**

How many of you think you'll be alive in your 90s?

YES

NO

Claiming early locks in permanent reductions



Source: Social Security Administration.

A smiling woman with grey hair, wearing a yellow sweater, is looking down at a smartphone in her hands. She is in a bright, modern kitchen with a window in the background showing a small potted plant. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue and yellow gradient at the bottom. A dashed orange line curves from the top right corner down towards the bottom right corner.

Q2. How can I claim retirement benefits?

4 Ways to claim



**Individual
Worker**



Spouse



Ex-Spouse



**Surviving
Spouse**

Individual worker



MAXIMIZE
BENEFITS
at 70?



OTHER
RESOURCES
AVAILABLE?



CONTINUE
WORKING?

Spouse



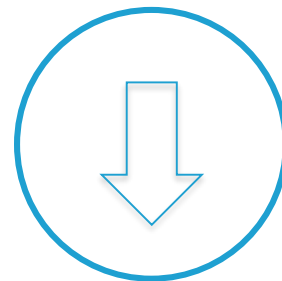
You are married



**Spouse enrolled in
Social Security**

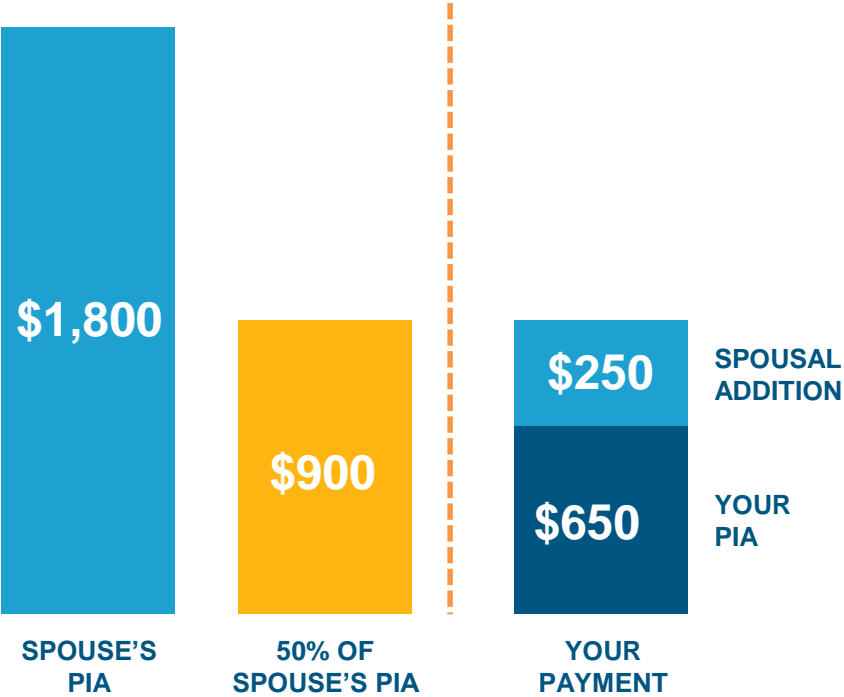


**Maximum benefit:
half of spouse's full
benefit**



**Reduced amount
if you claim
before FRA**

You have a work record and a current spouse



total benefit cannot exceed

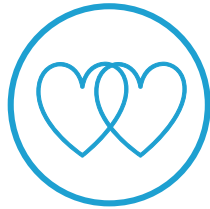
50%

of your spouse's Primary Insurance Amount (PIA)

Ex-spouse



**Marriage for
10 years**



**You have not
remarried**

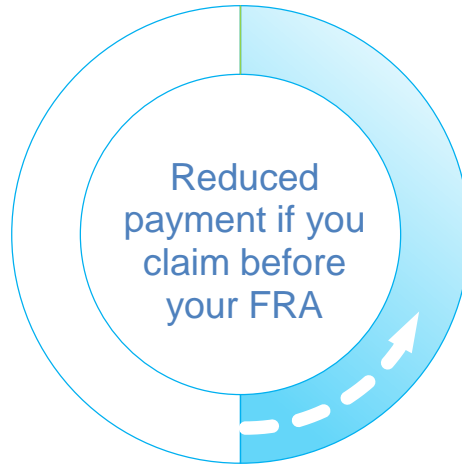
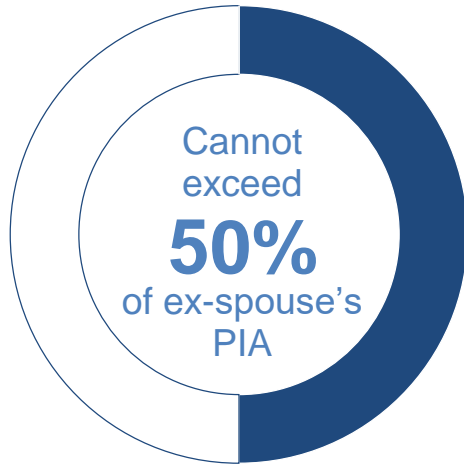


**Both at least
age 62**



**Divorced 2+ years or
ex is claiming**

Ex's can claim on each other's records



Confidentiality:

- Between you and the SSA
 - Marriage certificate
 - Divorce decree
 - Ex's SSN
 - Other required proof and documentation
-

Surviving Spouse or Surviving Ex-Spouse

Your spouse dies



Your ex-spouse dies
if you were married 10+
years and did not remarry
before age 60

You “step into his/her shoes”

When the higher-earning
spouse / ex dies first



Survivor benefit considerations:

- Survivor benefits available as early as age 60
- Early claims will be reduced
- Can switch between survivor and individual benefits
- You are responsible for notifying the SSA




Q3. Where do I get information?

Social Security website: SSA.gov



UC and Fidelity Resources




**CLAIMING
SOCIAL SECURITY:
HELPFUL TIPS**

Choosing when to start claiming Social Security benefits is an important decision, with pluses and minuses for every option. This guide will help you make a more informed decision.

Provided by
Fidelity

When should you claim SOCIAL SECURITY?

If you are 50 or over, it's a good time to start thinking about how Social Security fits into your overall plan. The right strategy could mean a significant difference in your retirement benefits, so let us show you an example of how you can get the most for your future.

I WAS BORN 





Q4.

**What do I need to get
my benefits?**



You must first qualify for Social Security

1.



You paid into
Social Security

2.



You earned at
least 40 “credits”

3.



Reach age 62



You need to know your Full Retirement Age

If you were born in...	Your full retirement age is...
1943–1954	66 years
1955	66 years, 2 months
1956	66 years, 4 months
1957	66 years, 6 months
1958	66 years, 8 months
1959	66 years, 10 months
1960 or later	67 years



You need to understand the implications



Average of
your 35 highest-
earning years



Actuaries
determine PIA



Claiming Age

Not waiting:
Permanent reduction
As much as **30%** less

Waiting:
Increases until age 70
Up to **32%** more



Q5. Where does Social Security fit in my plan?

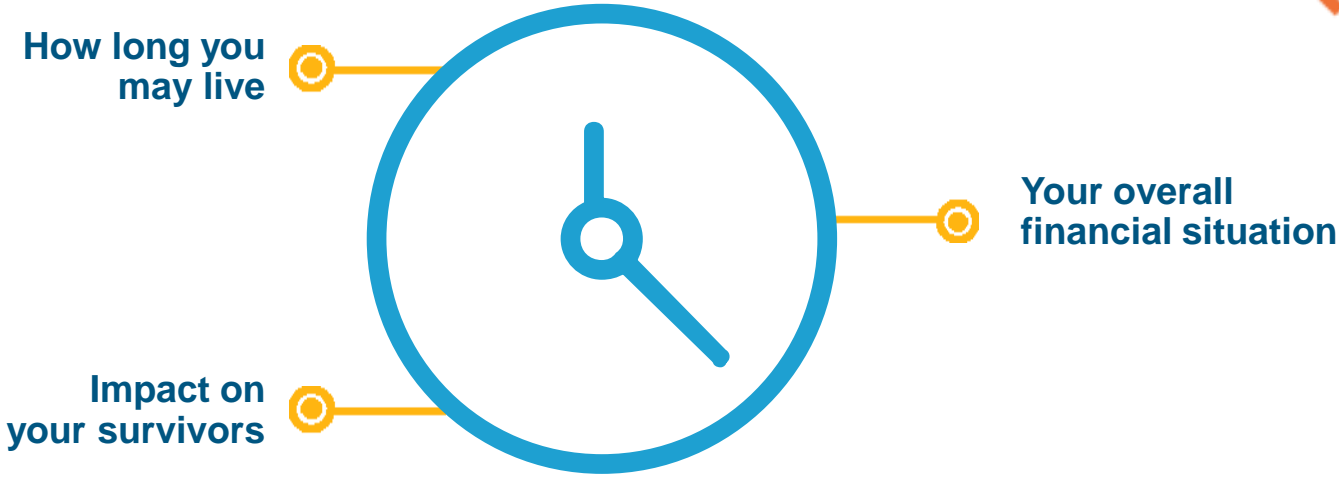
When you claim Social Security can have a significant impact on your savings

	Social Security	Your Portfolio
FRA (Full Retirement Age)	\$1,800	\$2,200
Age 70	\$2,232	\$1,768
Age 62	\$1,260	\$2,740

Annotations: An orange arrow points from the Age 70 Social Security value (\$2,232) to a box containing "77%". Another orange arrow points from the Age 62 Social Security value (\$1,260) to a box containing "\$972".

Hypothetical example to illustrate how different Social Security claiming dates deliver different income amounts. Assumes FRA is 67. Essential expense need is \$4,000 per month.

Deciding when to claim is a key piece of your retirement income plan



Next steps



Attend Social Security classes available at myUCretirement.com/classes



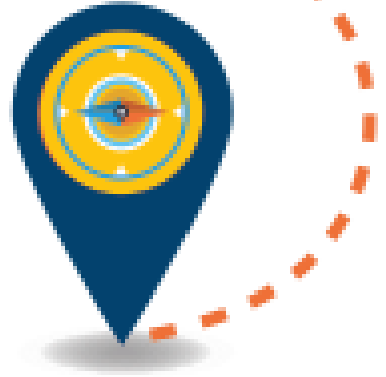
Get your Social Security Statement at SSA.gov



Read articles on Social Security at myUCretirement.com



Schedule a planning session in person or over the phone [800-558-9182](tel:800-558-9182)



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