

## YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

You receive yearly notices in the mail from the Social Security Administration describing your status.

When you prepare to apply for benefits, call 1-800-772-1213, or go online at [socialsecurity.gov](http://socialsecurity.gov).

Setting up an appointment is obligation-free. You are not applying until you submit all required paperwork and fill out and sign the application form.

You will probably be assigned an agent, who will explain in detail all of your options and guide you in filling out the necessary paperwork.

You can retire anytime after your 62nd birthday. Benefits increase until they maximize at age 70. The year and month when you decide to collect will be the amount (plus cost-of-living allowances) that will be sent to you monthly for the rest of your life.

For example, "Mary Smith" is a retiree born in 1947. Her full retirement age is 66. Based on her lifetime wages, if she:

- Takes benefits at 62 (2009), she receives \$ 750/month
- Takes benefits at 66 (2013), she receives \$1,000/month
- Takes benefits at 70 (2009), she receives \$1,320/month

Between age 62 and full retirement age, there is a work-income limit ranging from \$12,960 to \$34,440 per year.

At full age, there is no work-income limit.

*(These are 2007 numbers and due for change as are the many regulations of the Social Security Administration.)*