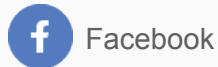


Jan Dils February Social Security Newsletter

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VETERANS DISABILITY  
& SOCIAL SECURITY**  
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All of us at Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law wish you a happy New Year. It's hard to believe it is already February! It is with great enthusiasm that we reach back out to you as a trusted source of information. We have two excellent BLOGS to read by our firm's own Jon Corra. In addition, the first article in this specific communication is about Social Security and the protections it can provide your family. This is an important social service that goes back to the Great Depression. Signed in 1935, the original law only paid benefits to the primary worker. In 1939, it added spouses and children. And thankfully, disability benefits were included in 1956. Of course, we continue to advocate for those benefits as we see the difference they make in our clients' day-to-day lives.

The second piece is a very important fraud advisory from the Acting Inspector General of Social Security. We have published articles about social security scams in the past. This is another reminder coming straight from the government. Please don't be a victim. Never give any sensitive information such as your social security number or bank accounts over the phone and always be sure to shred documents. Of course, if you have any questions about these topics or need assistance handling your Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and

**JAN DILS**  
Social Security Disability  
law blog

[What Social Security Applicants Need To Know About Online Applications](#)

[ODAR, and the Social Security Disability Backlog](#)

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Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claims, do not hesitate to [contact us](#). We are here for you.

Sincerely,



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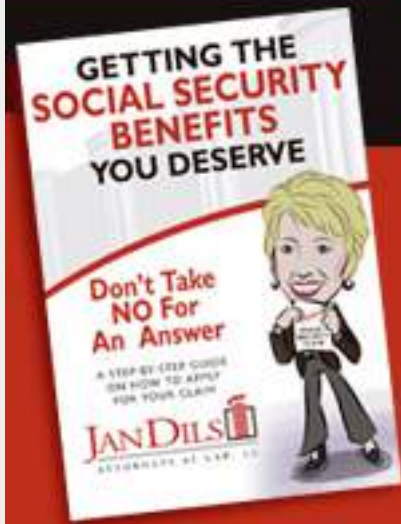
## FIVE WAYS SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY



Next payday, when you see a portion of your wages go toward FICA taxes, rest easier knowing that your investment in Social Security brings a lifetime of protections for you and your family.

From your first job and throughout your career, Social Security tracks your earnings and gives you credits for the contributions you've made through payroll taxes. Those credits can translate into important future benefits. As you prepare for a financially secure future, you should know about these five benefits that you, your spouse, and your children may become eligible for through Social Security:

Click to Request Your  
FREE Book!



Request a copy  
of Jan Dils  
easy-to-understand  
plan on how  
to apply for  
and win  
your benefits

Request a Book!

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**Retirement benefits** provide you with a continuous source of income later in life. If you've earned enough credits, you can start receiving your full retirement benefits at age 66 or 67 – depending on when you were born. You may choose to claim these benefits as early as age 62 at a permanently reduced rate, but waiting until after your full retirement age increases your benefit amount by up to 8 percent per year to age 70. Plan for your retirement at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire).

**Disability benefits** offer a financial lifeline if you're struck by a serious medical condition that makes it impossible for you to work and provide for yourself and your family and is expected to last at least one year or to result in death. Learn more at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

**Child benefits** support your minor children while you're receiving Social Security retirement benefits or disability benefits. This financial support also is available to adult children who become disabled before age 22. Grandchildren and stepchildren may qualify in certain situations. Learn more at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/kids).

**Spousal benefits** supplement a couple's income if one of the two never worked or had low lifetime earnings. In some cases, this benefit is also available to divorced spouses. Please see: [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/applying6.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/applying6.html).

**Survivor benefits** ease the financial burden on your loved ones after you die by providing monthly payments to eligible widows, widowers, children, and dependent parents. It's likely the survivor benefits you have under Social Security carry greater value than your individual life-insurance policy. Read more about survivor benefits at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors).

You must meet specific eligibility requirements to receive any type of Social Security benefits.

Social Security began as a measure to implement "social insurance" during the Great Depression of the 1930s, when poverty rates among senior citizens exceeded 50 percent. The Social Security Act was signed into law on August 14, 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Currently, Social Security provides benefits to more than 66 million American workers and their families.

Learn more about all of the programs at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).



Source: <https://blog.ssa.gov/5-ways-social-security-protects-you-and-your-family/#more-3007>



The Acting Inspector General of Social Security, Gale Stallworth Stone, is warning citizens about ongoing Social Security Administration (SSA) employee impersonation schemes. The [Federal Trade Commission](#) (FTC), which receives and analyzes public complaints related to identity theft, recently reported to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) an increase in reports of suspicious phone calls from people claiming to be SSA employees. According to the FTC, the current schemes involve a caller identifying as an SSA employee and claiming an issue exists with the citizen's online account; the caller claims the citizen can resolve the issue either over the phone or through an imposter SSA website.

The FTC information follows several public alerts from the OIG in 2017 about government impersonation schemes. The OIG previously warned citizens about an [OIG employee impersonation scheme](#) and a version of

the [ongoing SSA employee impersonation scheme](#). In each case, the caller reportedly uses a fake name and government affiliation and tries to obtain a citizen's personal information or money.

SSA employees occasionally contact citizens by telephone for customer-service purposes. In only a few limited special situations, usually already known to the citizen, an SSA employee may request the citizen confirm personal information over the phone. If a person receives a suspicious call from someone alleging to be from SSA, citizens may report that information to the OIG at 1-800-269-0271 or online via <https://oig.ssa.gov/report>.

Acting Inspector General Stone continues to warn citizens to be cautious, and to avoid providing information such as your SSN or bank account numbers to unknown persons over the phone or internet unless you are certain of who is receiving it. "You must be very confident that the source is the correct business party, and your information will be secure after you release it," Stone said.



If a person has questions about any communication – email, letter, text or phone call – that claims to be from SSA or the OIG, please contact your local Social Security office, or call Social Security's toll-free customer service number at 1-800-772-1213, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, to verify its legitimacy. (Those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can call Social Security's TTY number at 1-800-325-0778).

For more information, please visit the OIG's [Scam Awareness](#) page.

Source: <https://oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/news-releases/jan17-advisory>

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*Jan Dils keeps you updated on Social Security disability benefits news and important issues that matter the most. We not only focus on Social Security Disability, we also provide legal assistance for Veterans Disability Benefits . We understand the claims process and specialize in making sure Veterans receive the proper representation needed for receiving benefits. For more information on our Veterans Disability services, please visit [www.fight4vets.com](http://www.fight4vets.com)*

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member nationwide.

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