

§ 404.410

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benefits at age 60. Those benefits will be reduced as explained in § 404.410.

[68 FR 4707, Jan. 30, 2003]

§ 404.410 How does SSA reduce my benefits when my entitlement begins before full retirement age?

Generally your old-age, wife's, husband's, widow's, or widower's benefits are reduced if entitlement begins before the month you attain full retirement age (as defined in § 404.409). However, your benefits as a wife or husband are not reduced for any month in which you have in your care a child of the worker on whose earnings record you are entitled. The child must be entitled to child's benefits. Your benefits as a widow or widower are not reduced below the benefit amount you would receive as a mother or father for any month in which you have in your care a child of the worker on whose record you are entitled. The child must be entitled to child's benefits. Subject to §§ 404.411 through 404.413, reductions in benefits are made in the amounts described.

(a) *How does SSA reduce my old-age benefits?* The reduction in your primary insurance amount is based on the number of months of entitlement prior to the month you attain full retirement age. The reduction is $\frac{5}{9}$ of 1 percent for each of the first 36 months and $\frac{1}{12}$ of 1 percent for each month in excess of 36.

Example: Alex's full retirement age for unreduced benefits is 65 years and 8 months. She elects to begin receiving benefits at age 62. Her primary insurance amount of \$980.50 must be reduced because of her entitlement to benefits 44 months prior to full retirement age. The reduction is 36 months at $\frac{5}{9}$ of 1 percent and 8 months at $\frac{1}{12}$ of 1 percent.

$$980.50 \times 36 \times \frac{5}{9} \times .01 = \$196.10$$

$$980.50 \times 8 \times \frac{1}{12} \times .01 = \$32.68$$

The two added together equal a total reduction of \$228.78. This amount is rounded to \$228.80 (the next higher multiple of 10 cents) and deducted from the primary insurance amount. The resulting \$751.70 is the monthly benefit payable.

(b) *How does SSA reduce my wife's or husband's benefits?* Your wife's or husband's benefits before any reduction (see §§ 404.304 and 404.333) are reduced first (if necessary) for the family maximum under § 404.403. They are then reduced based on the number of months

of entitlement prior to the month you attain full retirement age. This does not include any month in which you have a child of the worker on whose earnings record you are entitled in your care. The child must be entitled to child benefits. The reduction is $\frac{25}{36}$ of 1 percent for each of the first 36 months and $\frac{5}{12}$ of 1 percent for each month in excess of 36.

Example: Sam is entitled to old-age benefits. His spouse Ashley elects to begin receiving wife's benefits at age 63. Her full retirement age for unreduced benefits is 65 and 4 months. Her benefit will be reduced for 28 months of entitlement prior to full retirement age. If her unreduced benefit is \$412.40 the reduction will be $\$412.40 \times 28 \times \frac{25}{36} \times .01$. The resulting \$80.18 is rounded to \$80.20 (the next higher multiple of 10 cents) and subtracted from \$412.40 to determine the monthly benefit amount of \$332.20.

(c) *How does SSA reduce my widow's or widower's benefits?* Your entitlement to widow's or widower's benefits may begin at age 60 based on age or at age 50 based on disability. Refer to § 404.335 for more information on the requirements for entitlement. Both types are reduced if entitlement begins prior to attainment of full retirement age (as defined in § 404.409).

(1) *Widow's or widower's benefits based on age.* Your widow's or widower's unreduced benefit amount (the worker's primary insurance amount after any reduction for the family maximum under § 404.403), is reduced or further reduced based on the number of months of entitlement prior to the month you attain full retirement age. This does not include any month in which you have in your care a child of the worker on whose earnings record you are entitled. The child must be entitled to child's benefits. The number of months of entitlement prior to full retirement age is multiplied by .285 and then divided by the number of months in the period beginning with the month of attainment of age 60 and ending with the month immediately before the month of attainment of full retirement age.

Example: Ms. Bogle is entitled to an unreduced widow benefit of \$785.70 beginning at age 64. Her full retirement age for unreduced old-age benefits is 65 years and 4 months. She will receive benefits for 16 months prior to attainment of full retirement age. The number of months in the period from age 60

through full retirement age of 65 and 4 months is 64. The reduction in her benefit is $\$785.70 \times 16 \times .285$ divided by 64 or \$55.98. \$55.98 is rounded to the next higher multiple of 10 cents (\$56.00) and subtracted from \$785.70. The result is a monthly benefit of \$729.70.

(2) *Widow's or widower's benefits based on disability.* (i) For months after December 1983, your widow's or widower's benefits are not reduced for months of entitlement prior to age 60. You are deemed to be age 60 in your month of entitlement to disabled widow's or widower's benefits and your benefits are reduced only under paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(ii) For months from January 1973 through December 1983, benefits as a disabled widow or widower were reduced under paragraph (c)(1) of this section. The benefits were then subject to an additional reduction of $\frac{43}{240}$ of one percent for each month of entitlement prior to age 60 based on disability.

(3) *Widow's or widower's benefits prior to 1973.* For months prior to January 1973 benefits as a widow or widower were reduced only for months of entitlement prior to age 62. The reduction was $\frac{1}{2}$ of one percent for each month of entitlement from the month of attainment of age 60 through the month prior to the month of attainment of age 62. There was an additional reduction of $\frac{43}{198}$ of one percent for each month of entitlement prior to age 60 based on disability.

(d) *If my benefits are reduced under this section does SSA ever change the reduction?* The reduction computed under paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of this section may later be adjusted to eliminate reduction for certain months of entitlement prior to full retirement age as provided in § 404.412. For special provisions on reducing benefits for months prior to full retirement age involving entitlement to two or more benefits, see § 404.411.

(e) *Are my widow's or widower's benefits affected if the deceased worker was entitled to old-age benefits?* If the deceased individual was entitled to old-age benefits, see § 404.338 for special rules that may affect your reduced widow's or widower's benefits.

[68 FR 4708, Jan. 30, 2003]

§ 404.411 How are benefits reduced for age when a person is entitled to two or more benefits?

(a) *What is the general rule?* Except as specifically provided in this section, benefits of an individual entitled to more than one benefit will be reduced for months of entitlement before full retirement age (as defined in § 404.409) according to the provisions of § 404.410. Such age reductions are made before any reduction under the provisions of § 404.407.

(b) *How is my disability benefit reduced after entitlement to an old-age benefit or widow's or widower's benefit?* A person's disability benefit is reduced following entitlement to an old-age or widow's or widower's benefit (or following the month in which all conditions for entitlement to the widow's or widower's benefit are met except that the individual is entitled to an old-age benefit which equals or exceeds the primary insurance amount on which the widow's or widower's benefit is based) in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) *Individuals born January 2, 1928, or later whose disability began January 1, 1990, or later.* When an individual is entitled to a disability benefit for a month after the month in which she or he becomes entitled to an old-age benefit which is reduced for age under § 404.410, the disability benefit is reduced by the amount by which the old-age benefit would be reduced under § 404.410 if she or he attained full retirement age in the first month of the most recent period of entitlement to the disability benefit.

(2) *Individuals born January 2, 1928, or later whose disability began before January 1, 1990, and, all individuals born before January 2, 1928, regardless of when their disability began—*(i) *First entitled to disability in or after the month of attainment of age 62.* When an individual is first entitled to a disability benefit in or after the month in which she or he attains age 62 and for which she or he is first entitled to a widow's or widower's benefit (or would be so entitled except for entitlement to an equal or higher old-age benefit) before full retirement age, the disability benefit is reduced by the larger of: