



New Social Security Claiming Rules (continued)

- *Restricted Application* is the more commonly used of the two, and it allows you at Full Retirement Age (FRA) to collect a Spousal Benefit while your own benefit continues to grow at 8% per year.
- The *File and Suspend* strategy allows higher wage earners at FRA to file for benefits and then suspend them and keep working while their spouse starts the Spousal Benefit.

If you are considering whether to start claiming Social Security benefits, you and your financial advisor should evaluate the above strategies and the other options that are still available to you.

Effect on Claiming Strategies

1. Everyone who has already locked in one of these strategies is able to continue using it.
2. You must be age 62 or older as of 01/01/16 to be eligible to use *Restricted Application*.
3. If you were age 66 or older by 05/01/16, you are still eligible to choose *File and Suspend*.
4. Anyone age 61 or younger by the end of 2015 is not eligible to use either strategy.

Determining your optimal claiming strategy can be complex, but many options remain:

1. Survivor Benefits will remain the same. Surviving spouses are still eligible for 100% of their late spouses' benefits. Also, a survivor is still able to claim a Survivor Benefit while letting his or her own benefit grow until age 70. Or, it might be better to take your own benefit early and later claim a Survivor Benefit at your FRA.

2. You are still eligible to collect benefits as early as age 62, and you'll receive about 70% of your benefit at Full Retirement Age (FRA).
3. If you wait to collect until after your FRA, your benefit would grow by 8% per year until age 70. There is still no reason to delay collecting benefits beyond age 70 because your benefit amount will no longer increase.
4. There are now two sets of rules that apply to claiming strategies for divorced spouses. Some additional strategic moves can be utilized, and these should be reviewed with your financial advisor in order to maximize your benefit.

Choosing the right claiming strategy can increase your retirement income. When we meet to update your financial plan, we can discuss which claiming strategy may be the best option for you.