



SOCIAL SECURITY

- CALENDAR 2011 EARNINGS LIMITS
 - ✓ UNDER FULL RETIREMENT AGE -- \$14,160. BENEFITS REDUCED \$1 FOR EVERY \$2 OVER THE LIMIT.
 - ✓ YEAR YOU REACH FULL RETIREMENT AGE -- \$37,680. BENEFITS REDUCED \$1 FOR EVERY \$3 OVER THE LIMIT UNTIL THE MONTH YOU REACH FULL RETIREMENT AGE.
 - ✓ AT FULL RETIREMENT AGE OR OLDER -- NO LIMIT ON EARNINGS.
 - ✓ SPECIAL MONTHLY RULE (1ST YEAR OF RETIREMENT ONLY).
- ESTIMATING YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT (IF BORN IN 1948 OR LATER)
 - HIGHEST 35 YEARS OF EARNINGS (UP TO MAXIMUM EACH YEAR) FROM 1951 TO THE YEAR YOU TURN 62.
 - INDEX EACH YEAR OF EARNINGS FOR INFLATION.
 - DIVIDE BY 420 (NUMBER OF MONTHS IN 35 YEARS) TO DETERMINE AVERAGE INDEXED MONTHLY EARNINGS.
 - MULTIPLY FIRST \$761 BY 90%; MULTIPLY THE NEXT \$3,825 BY 32%; AND MULTIPLY ANY AMOUNT OVER \$4,586 BY 15%. TOTAL TO DETERMINE MONTHLY SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT.
 - MAXIMUM MONTHLY BENEFIT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL FOR CALENDAR 2011--\$2,366 (AVERAGE OF \$1,177).
- HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR BENEFITS? INFORMATION NEEDED.
 - SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER;
 - BIRTH CERTIFICATE;
 - W-2 FORMS OR SELF-EMPLOYMENT TAX RETURN FOR LAST YEAR;
 - MILITARY DISCHARGE PAPERS IF YOU HAD MILITARY SERVICE;
 - YOUR SPOUSE'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IF HE/SHE IS APPLYING FOR BENEFITS;
 - CHILDREN'S BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS, IF APPLYING FOR CHILDREN'S BENEFITS;
 - PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP OR LAWFUL ALIEN STATUS IF YOU (OR A SPOUSE OR CHILD IS APPLYING FOR BENEFITS) WERE NOT BORN IN THE U.S.;
 - THE NAME OF YOUR BANK AND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER SO YOUR BENEFITS CAN BE DIRECTLY DEPOSITED INTO YOUR ACCOUNT.