

TOP 5 SOCIAL SECURITY FACTS EVERY DIVORCEE SHOULD KNOW

Your life may change drastically after a divorce, including your Social Security and retirement outlook. After divorce, you may still be entitled to additional Social Security income. Below are five Social Security facts that every divorcee should be aware of:

1. If you're currently divorced but were married at least 10 years, at least 62 years of age, and unmarried at the time of filing, you may be eligible for spousal benefit on your ex-spouse's Social Security. If you're due two benefits, you get the one that pays the higher rate, not both.
2. Some women relinquish their rights to Social Security on their ex-spouse's record when they sign a divorce decree. However, if you were married 10 years and have not remarried, those clauses in the divorce decree are rarely enforced.
3. Payments made to a divorced spouse on their ex-spouse's record DO NOT reduce payments for the ex-spouse or their new spouse if they've remarried.
4. Most divorced spouses can collect their own Social Security while their ex-spouse is alive, but can then apply for higher widow benefit when the ex-spouse dies.
5. A good general rule of thumb is that the same payment rules apply to divorced spouses and widows as to current spouses and widows.

Social Security rules can be complicated, especially when a divorce is involved. Speak with a financial professional about your Social Security options to make sure you receive the benefits you're entitled to.

For more information visit: <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html>

Sources:

<https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/081815/can-divorced-woman-collect-social-security-her-exhusband.asp>
<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10044.pdf>

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