

*Entitled* means that a person has applied and has proven his or her right to benefits for a period of time.

*Insured person or the insured* means someone who has enough earnings under social security to permit payment of benefits on his or her earnings record. The requirements for becoming insured are described in subpart B.

*Permanent home* means the true and fixed home (legal domicile) of a person. It is the place to which a person intends to return whenever he or she is absent.

*Primary insurance amount* means an amount that is determined from the average monthly earnings creditable to the insured person. This term and the manner in which it is computed are explained in subpart C.

*We or Us* means the Social Security Administration.

*You* means the person who has applied for benefits or the person for whom someone else has applied.

**§ 404.304 What are the general rules on benefit amounts?**

This subpart describes how we determine the highest monthly benefit amount you ordinarily could qualify for under each type of benefit. However, the highest monthly benefit amount you could qualify for may not be the amount you will be paid. In a particular month, your benefit amount may be reduced or not paid at all. Under some circumstances, your benefit amount may be increased. The most common reasons for a change in your benefit amount are listed below.

(a) *Age*. Sections 404.410 through 404.413 explain how your old-age, wife's or husband's, or widow's or widower's benefits may be reduced if you choose to receive them before you attain full retirement age (as defined in § 404.409).

(b) *Earnings*. Sections 404.415 through 404.418 explain how deductions will be made from your benefits if your earnings or the insured person's earnings go over certain limits.

(c) *Overpayments and underpayments*. Your benefits may be increased or decreased to make up for any previous overpayment or underpayment made on the insured person's record. For more information about this, see subpart F of this part.

(d) *Family maximum*. Sections 404.403 through 404.406 explain that there is a maximum amount payable on each insured person's earnings record. If you are entitled to benefits as the insured's dependent or survivor, your benefits may be reduced to keep total benefits payable to the insured's family within these limits.

(e) *Government pension offset*. If you are entitled to wife's, husband's, widow's, widower's, mother's or father's benefits and receive a Government pension for work that was not covered under social security, your monthly benefits may be reduced because of that pension. Special age 72 payments may also be reduced because of a Government pension. For more information about this, see § 404.408a which covers reductions for Government pensions and § 404.384(c) which covers special age 72 payments.

(f) *Rounding*. After all other deductions or reductions, we reduce any monthly benefit that is not a multiple of \$1 to the next lower multiple of \$1.

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**§ 404.305 When you may not be entitled to benefits.**

In addition to the situations described in § 404.304 when you may not receive a benefit payment, there are special circumstances when you may not be entitled to benefits. These circumstances are—

(a) *Waiver of benefits*. If you have waived benefits and been granted a tax exemption on religious grounds as described in §§ 404.1039 and 404.1075, no one may become entitled to any benefits or payments on your earnings record and you may not be entitled to benefits on anyone else's earnings record; and

(b) *Person's death caused by an intentional act*. You may not become entitled to or continue to receive any survivor's benefits or payments on the earnings record of any person, or receive any underpayment due a person, if you were convicted of a felony or an act in the nature of a felony of intentionally causing that person's death. If you were subject to the juvenile justice system, you may not become entitled to or continue to receive survivor's benefits or payments on the earnings