



# SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISOR

## Social Security Planning for Retirement

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### Social Security Discovery Questions for Single Adults

In [last month's issue](#), we covered the ways married couples can decide when to claim their respective Social Security retirement benefits. This month, we'll look at how singles can pick an effective starting date. Bachelors or bachelorettes actually have it easier, as the choice involves only one person's health and wealth, rather than taking the situation for two people into consideration.

Either way, asking thoughtful discovery questions can lead to insightful answers. Such responses ultimately can render a more holistic approach to the when-to-claim decision and reveal areas that may have been left uncovered had this approach not been taken.

In this century, claiming strategies have shifted. Instead of filing at the earliest claim date of age 62, which had been the norm, age 64 has become the most popular age for men and women alike to turn on Social Security benefits.

Still, neither 62 nor 64 is the perfect age for all single people to start Social Security benefits. Waiting longer may be the correct call for many people, and asking questions can be the right way to determine what's best. Here are some discovery questions that can uncover opportunities to enhance benefits and create a more empowered retirement.

#### Claiming Considerations for Single Individuals

*What questions should un-coupled individuals be asking while deciding when to start Social Security?*

Let's explore these 6 questions:

##### 1. How is your health?

Intuitively, this is a key question for people concerned mainly about their own prospects, without a spouse to consider. People in great health might delay Social Security benefits as long as practical, to build a larger long-term benefit. Conversely, those in poor health may prefer to file early, to get back some of the taxes paid to

#### Single Stats

According to the SSA, among all elderly recipients, 70% of singles rely on Social Security for 50% or more of their income. Moreover, 3 out of 4 women are widowed by age 75, so many of those elderly singles relying on Social Security are widows.

Thus, making the right claiming decision is vital for single people: never married, widowed, or divorced. Even singles with young children may be receiving Social Security benefits, with a pressing need to claim carefully to maximize benefits.

**FREE TOOL FOR SUBSCRIBERS:** Navigate the interplay between a claiming decision & other sources of income to support retirement.

Download Your "Social Security Questionnaire" at [irahelp.com/ssquestionnaire](http://irahelp.com/ssquestionnaire)



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