

Social Security Administration

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Traverse City MI 49684

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Social Security Column

WHO DO I CONTACT - SOCIAL SECURITY OR MEDICARE

By **Bob Simpson**

Social Security District Manager in Traverse City



Social Security offers retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. Medicare provides health insurance. Because these services are often related, you may not know which agency to contact for help. The table below can help you quickly figure out where to go. Please share this table with family and friends.

Topic	Social Security	Medicare	Resources
How do I report a death?	X		Contact your local Social Security Office or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)
How can I check Medicare eligibility?	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare
What does Medicare cover?		X	www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers
How do I sign up for Hospital Insurance? (Part A)	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare
How do I sign up for Medical Insurance? (Part B)	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare

Topic	Social Security	Medicare	Resources
How do I apply for Extra Help with Medicare Prescription drug coverage? (Part D)	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp
How can I check the status of Medicare Part A or B claims?		X	www.mymedicare.gov
Where do I find forms for filing a Medicare appeal or let someone speak with Medicare on my behalf?		X	www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/how-do-i-file-an-appeal
How to appeal an income-related monthly adjustment amount decision? <i>for people who pay a higher Part B or D premium, if their income is over a certain amount</i>	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html
How can I request a replacement Medicare card online?	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount
If I already get benefits or have Medicare, how do I report a change of address or phone number?	X		www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount
What do Medicare health and prescription drug plans in my area cost, and what services do they offer?		X	www.medicare.gov/plan-compare
Which doctors, health care providers, and suppliers participate in Medicare?		X	www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/find-compare-doctors-hospitals-other-providers
Where do I find publications about Medicare?	X	X	www.ssa.gov/pubs/?topic=Medicare www.medicare.gov/publications
Where can I find out more about a Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) and enroll?		X	www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/how-to-get-prescription-drug-coverage
Where can I find a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy in my area?		X	www.medicare.gov/medigap-supplemental-insurance-plans

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Social Security Column

READY TO RETIRE? APPLY ONLINE WITH SOCIAL SECURITY

By **Bob Simpson**

Social Security District Manager in Traverse City



It's never too early to start planning for retirement and our online tools can help. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to access your *my Social Security* account to get a personalized estimate of your retirement benefits based on your earnings record. Once you have an account, you can use our Retirement Calculator, to check out how your benefits change at different ages. Don't have a *my Social Security* account? You can create one at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount or you can use our online Retirement Estimator to get benefit estimates at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

You can also use your *my Social Security* account to see your entire work history to be sure we have all of your wages recorded correctly, which is important because we base your benefit amount on the earnings reported to us. If you find an error with your work history, read this publication for more information: www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf.

When you're ready to apply for Social Security retirement benefits, you can conveniently complete our online application in as little as 15 minutes at

www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/retirement. We will contact you if we need any further information. You can check the status of your application through your online account.

You can apply online for Social Security retirement benefits, or benefits as a spouse, if you:

- Are at least 61 years and 9 months old.
- Are **not** currently receiving benefits on your own Social Security record.
- Have not already applied for retirement benefits.
- Want your benefits to start no later than 4 months in the future. (We cannot process your application if you apply for benefits more than 4 months in advance)

Find out more about our online services at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices.

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Social Security Column

GET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT STATEMENT (SSA-1099 / SSA-1042S)

By **Bob Simpson**

Social Security District Manager in Traverse City



Tax season is approaching, and we have made replacing your annual Benefit Statement even easier. The Benefit Statement, also known as the SSA-1099 or the SSA-1042S, is a tax form we mail each year in January to people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits you received from us in the previous year so you know how much Social Security income to report to the IRS on your tax return.

If you live in the United States and you need a replacement form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S, simply go online and get an instant, printable replacement form using your personal *my Social Security* account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. A replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S is available for the previous tax year after February 1.

If you already have a *my Social Security* account, you can log in to your account to view and print your SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S. If you don't have access to a printer, you can save the document to your computer or email it to yourself. If you don't have a *my Social Security* account, creating one is very easy to do and usually takes less than 10 minutes.

If you're a non-citizen who lives outside of the United States and you received or repaid Social Security benefits last year, we will send you form SSA-1042S in the mail. The forms SSA-1099 and SSA-1042S are not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

With a personal *my Social Security* account, you can do much of your business with us online. If you receive benefits or have Medicare, your personal *my Social Security* account is also the best way to:

- Request a replacement Social Security number card (in most states and the District of Columbia).
- Get your benefit verification letter.
- Check your benefit and payment information.
- Change your address and phone number.
- Change your direct deposit information.
- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Report your wages if you work and receive Social Security disability insurance or SSI benefits.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov to find more about our online services.

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Social Security Column

SOCIAL SECURITY AND AMERICA SAVES WEEK

By Bob Simpson

Social Security District Manager in Traverse City



This year, America Saves Week (ASW) runs from February 24 through 29. The week is an opportunity for organizations to promote good financial habits. It's also a great time for people to assess their own saving status, as planning and saving are key to a successful retirement.

ASW is the perfect time to promote our shared mission of helping millions of people prepare for their future. Join the #ASW20 movement by using this hashtag when posting about your savings goals.

It's never too early to start planning for your retirement. Set a goal, make a plan, and save automatically. Savers with a plan are twice as likely to save successfully. Pledge to save for America Saves Week at www.americasavesweek.org.

To help you with your retirement saving goals, we have many tools for retirement planning. You can access our online information and resources at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire.

It's never too late for you to begin saving. Younger workers may think they have time to put off saving for their future, but the sooner they begin, the more their money can grow. Our website for young workers at www.socialsecurity.gov/people/earlycareer has resources that can help you secure today and tomorrow.

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APPLY ONLINE FOR MEDICARE

By Bob Simpson

Social Security District Manager in Traverse City



Did you know that you can apply online for Medicare, even if you are not ready to retire? We can help you make an informed decision about when to apply for benefits based on your individual and family circumstances. Applying online can take less than 10 minutes. There are no forms to sign and usually no required documentation. We'll process your application and contact you if we need more information.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare to begin. There, you can apply for Medicare and find other important information. If you're eligible for Medicare at age 65, your initial enrollment period begins three months before your 65th birthday and ends three months after that birthday.

Some Medicare beneficiaries may qualify for Extra Help with their Medicare prescription drug plan costs. To qualify for the Extra Help, a person must be receiving Medicare, have limited resources and income, and reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia. For more information on Extra Help, read www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10525.pdf.

You may also be interested in reading these publications:

- Apply Online for Medicare — Even if You Are Not Ready to Retire www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10530.pdf.
- When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf.

Helping a friend or family member with this information can improve the quality of their life.
Share these resources with someone you love today.

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