

social security form ssa 1724 instructions

Social Security Form SSA-1724 Instructions are critical for individuals handling the death benefits of someone who has passed away and was receiving Social Security benefits. This form is specifically designed for claiming the lump-sum death benefit of a deceased worker. Understanding the proper steps and requirements for filling out Form SSA-1724 can ensure a smoother process for beneficiaries. This article aims to provide detailed instructions on completing the SSA-1724 form, including eligibility criteria, necessary documentation, and frequently asked questions.

What is Social Security Form SSA-1724?

Form SSA-1724, also known as "Claim for Lump-Sum Death Benefit," is utilized by eligible survivors to request a one-time payment from the Social Security Administration (SSA) following the death of a wage earner. This payment typically amounts to \$255 and is intended to assist with funeral expenses or other costs that may arise after a loved one's passing.

Who is Eligible to Use Form SSA-1724?

To qualify for the lump-sum death benefit, the following criteria must be met:

- The deceased must have worked enough years in jobs covered by Social Security.
- The claimant must be a surviving spouse, child, or other qualified family member.
- The claim must be filed within a specific time frame, generally within two years of the worker's death.

Eligible Survivors

The following individuals may file for the lump-sum death benefit:

1. **Surviving Spouse:** This includes a widow or widower who was married to the deceased worker at the time of death.
2. **Children:** Dependent children under age 18, or up to age 19 if still attending high school, can qualify for

benefits.

3. Other Family Members: In some cases, dependent parents or other family members might be eligible.

Required Documentation

When completing Social Security Form SSA-1724, it is vital to have the necessary documentation ready. This will help verify the relationship to the deceased and the eligibility for the benefits. Here is a list of documents you may need:

1. Proof of the deceased worker's death (e.g., a death certificate).
2. Proof of the claimant's relationship to the deceased (e.g., marriage certificate, birth certificate).
3. Social Security numbers for both the deceased and the claimant.
4. Any other relevant documents that may support the claim, such as divorce decrees or adoption papers.

Step-by-Step Instructions for Completing Form SSA-1724

Filling out Form SSA-1724 is straightforward, but it requires careful attention to detail. Below are the step-by-step instructions for completing the form:

Step 1: Obtain the Form

Form SSA-1724 can be obtained in several ways:

- Online: Download the form directly from the SSA's website.
- In-Person: Visit your local Social Security office to request a paper form.
- By Phone: Call the SSA to request that a form be mailed to you.

Step 2: Fill Out Personal Information

Begin the form by providing personal information about both the deceased and the claimant:

- Deceased Worker's Information: Name, Social Security number, date of birth, and date of death.
- Claimant's Information: Name, Social Security number, relationship to the deceased, and contact information.

Step 3: Indicate Eligibility for Benefits

You will need to specify your eligibility for the lump-sum death benefit. The form will require you to answer questions regarding your relationship to the deceased worker. Make sure to check the appropriate boxes that apply to your situation.

Step 4: Provide Additional Information

In this section, you may be asked to provide additional details, such as the deceased worker's employment history, any military service, and whether they were receiving Social Security benefits at the time of death. Be as thorough as possible to avoid delays.

Step 5: Sign and Date the Form

After filling out the form, ensure that the claimant signs and dates it. If someone is filing on behalf of the claimant, that person must also include their details.

Submitting the Form

Once the form is completed, it needs to be submitted to the Social Security Administration. Here are the options for submission:

- **By Mail:** Send the completed form to your local Social Security office. You can find the mailing address on the SSA website or on your local office's page.
- **In-Person:** You can also submit the form in person at your local SSA office.

Processing Time

The processing time for Form SSA-1724 can vary. Typically, claims are processed within 30 to 60 days; however, delays may occur due to incomplete information or high volumes of claims. If you have not received a response within this time frame, it is advisable to follow up with the SSA.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What if the deceased did not have enough work credits?

If the deceased worker did not have enough work credits to qualify for the lump-sum death benefit, the claim will be denied. However, other benefits may be available to eligible survivors, such as monthly survivor benefits.

2. Can I file for the lump-sum death benefit online?

Currently, Form SSA-1724 cannot be submitted online; it must be mailed or submitted in person.

3. What if I need help filling out the form?

You can seek assistance from a family member, a trusted friend, or contact your local SSA office for guidance.

4. Can I appeal if my claim is denied?

Yes, if your claim for the lump-sum death benefit is denied, you have the right to appeal the decision. The SSA will provide information on how to file an appeal, including deadlines and necessary forms.

Conclusion

Navigating the complexities of Social Security benefits can be challenging, especially during a time of loss. Understanding the **Social Security Form SSA-1724 instructions** is crucial for ensuring that eligible survivors

receive the one-time lump-sum death benefit. By following the outlined steps and gathering the necessary documentation, claimants can simplify the process and focus on what matters most during a difficult time. If you have further questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out to the Social Security Administration for help.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Social Security Form SSA-1724 used for?

Social Security Form SSA-1724 is used to apply for the payment of a deceased person's Social Security benefits to an eligible survivor or representative payee.

Who is eligible to complete Form SSA-1724?

Eligible individuals include the surviving spouse, children, or other beneficiaries who are entitled to receive the deceased person's Social Security benefits.

What information is required to fill out Form SSA-1724?

You will need information such as the deceased person's Social Security number, date of birth, date of death, and the relationship to the applicant.

How do I submit Form SSA-1724?

Form SSA-1724 can be submitted by mail to the local Social Security Administration office or in person at the office.

Are there any deadlines for submitting Form SSA-1724?

While there is no strict deadline, it is advisable to submit the form as soon as possible to ensure timely processing of benefits.

Where can I find the instructions for completing Form SSA-1724?

Instructions for completing Form SSA-1724 can be found on the Social Security Administration's official website or by contacting your local SSA office.

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