

Social Security - Questions

BY N. G. GRUBBS
Field Representative

Q. I'm 20 and I need a social security number to get a part-time job to help pay for college. I've never applied for a social security number before and I understand I may be asked to prove my age, identity, and citizenship. Just what do I need as proof? I was born in North Carolina.

A. Generally a citizen of the United States can prove age and citizenship with a birth certificate. You can prove identity with a drivers license, voters card or something similar—preferably a thing that carries your signature. You should apply for a social security number as soon as possible. To prevent issue of more than one number to any one person, applications are screened against social security records in Baltimore, and screening generally takes up to several weeks. Some employers won't hire you if you don't have a social security number. So delaying your application could cost you the job. Call or write any social security office for help and information.

Q. I just applied for supplemental security income payments, and now I have to move away from North Carolina to live near my

brother. What about my payments? Are the requirements and payments different from State to State under the supplemental security income program?

A. Federal supplemental security income payments are uniform all over the country. Some States add to the Federal payments, however, so moving could affect your supplemental security income. Before you move, report your new address to any social security office. For more information after you move, call or write the nearest social security office.

Q. I'm 19 and I get social security payments on my deceased father's record. I plan to work part time from Thanksgiving until Christmas. Will my earnings affect my benefits?

A. Only if your total earnings for the year exceed \$2,400. If your total earnings for 1974 are over \$2,400, \$1 in benefits will be withheld for every \$2 of earnings over \$2,400. But no matter how much you earn for the year, you can get your full benefit for any month in which you neither earn over \$200 in wages, nor do substantial work in self-employment.

Q. I plan to retire in about a year and would like to know

approximately how much I'll get every month in social security benefits. Can you help me figure it?

A. Yes, --we will send you a free copy of "Estimating Your Social Security Retirement Check," a pamphlet that explains how to estimate your monthly payment. If you have other questions, the people at any social security office will be glad to help you.

Q. I'm 69 and want to apply for supplemental security income payments. Will you tell me what papers I will need when I go to the social security office to apply?

A. You'll need proof of your age, something that shows what income, if any, you have, records of bonds and savings accounts, a tax assessment notice or other document showing the value of any property you own, and any life insurance policies you may have. We suggest that you call the social security office first. You may be able to handle the matter by telephone and mail.

Q. I'll be 65 next March. I earn good wages and have never applied for social security benefits. I plan to keep working, but I would like to get Medicare hospital and medical insurance. How do I go about it?

A. Call any social security office, and the people there will help you apply for Medicare. The application generally can be handled by phone and through the mail. You should call 2 or 3 months before the month you'll reach 65 so you'll have full Medicare coverage the first month you're 65.

Q. My 23-year-old sister was severely injured in an accident a few weeks ago, but I know she can't get social security disability payments because she has never worked. Can she get supplemental security income payments?

A. Possibly. Severely disabled people who are not expected to be able to work for a year or more may be eligible for supplemental security income payments if they have little or no income and limited resources. Your sister can call or write any social security office for information about applying for supplemental security income payments.

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GRANNY'S BANANA PUDDING

- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 4 medium ripe bananas, sliced
- 25 vanilla wafers
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs, separated
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 3 tablespoons Blue Bonnet Margarine
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons sugar

Sprinkle lemon juice over bananas. Line the bottom of a 1-quart casserole with some vanilla wafers. Top with a layer of sliced bananas. Set aside, reserving remaining wafers and bananas.

In a saucepan combine 2/3 cup sugar, flour and salt. Beat egg yolks slightly. Add milk and gradually add to dry ingredients, stirring to keep mixture smooth. Add Blue Bonnet Margarine. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly

Banana Pudding Reminiscent Of Cooking In Grandma's Day

Fond fond memories take many of us back to grandma's country kitchen and the tempting homemade goodies that were always on hand—heartily fruit pies, big old-fashioned molasses cookies and oh, those luscious puddings!

Lots of love went into cooking in those days and women were proud of their achievements in the kitchen. Church suppers and county fairs were grand occasions when everyone would show off favorite recipes.

Since cookbooks were not available in great abundance as they are today, Grandma probably relied to a great extent on old family recipes passed down from one generation to another. However, these hand-written directions were often vague. Measures such as "butter the size of an egg, a teacup of sugar, a pinch of salt" were common, and thus great skill and little luck were required for good results.

Many of us have favorite family recipes, which have been handed on through the years. Most have been adapted and revised to fit personal tastes and modern ingredients. Exact measures now provide us with precise recipes that insure perfect results every time.

An Early American Recipe Contest sponsored by the makers of Blue Bonnet Margarine centered around this theme. Contestants were asked to take an old-fashioned family recipe and modernize it with one of many "buttery flavor" Blue Bonnet Margarine. Granny's Banana Pudding was chosen from thousands of entries as one of the best in the contest. Typical of early American cooking, this delicious pudding will still win raves today. Blue Bonnet Margarine adds rich flavor to the creamy pudding, layered with bananas and vanilla wafers. A blanket of meringue is the crowning touch.

until mixture starts to boil. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla extract. Pour some of pudding over layered wafers and bananas. Layer remaining wafers, bananas and pudding ending with pudding.

Beat egg whites until foamy. Gradually add and beat in 2 tablespoons sugar. Beat until peaks hold. Spread mixture over pudding, sealing to edges of casserole.

Bake at 425°F. 3 to 5 minutes, or until meringue is lightly browned. Cool at room temperature before serving. Makes 10 servings.

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