

**For More Information,
Call the Legal Aid In Your Community.**

Legal Hotline open Monday to Friday
9:00am to 11:30am
1:00pm to 3:30pm

Oahu call 536-4302
Maui call 242-0724
Hilo call 934-0678
Kona call 329-8331

Please visit us at <http://www.legalaidhawaii.org>

Remember:

This brochure is meant to give you general information and not to give you specific advice about your case.

The law often changes. Each case is different.

If you have problems or questions about Social Security, call our hotline.



**Legal Aid
Society
Of Hawai`i**

Social Security Facts

WHAT IS SOCIAL SECURITY?

Social Security is a program that helps aged, blind, disabled people and their spouses, former spouses, children or widow(er)s. It provides money and a chance to get low-cost health care or insurance. You pay part of your earnings from working into Social Security.

1. CAN MY FAMILY OR I GET SOCIAL SECURITY?

It depends on whether you have worked long enough to be covered. If you are covered, you will have to show your age; that you are unable to do work for at least a year because of a medical reason; or that you get support from someone on Social Security. Your local Social Security office can tell you if you are covered.

2. MY MOTHER LEFT ME HER HOUSE. CAN I GET SOCIAL SECURITY?

YES, if you meet all of the eligibility rules of Social Security. Social Security is based on how much you have earned, not on what property you have. The rules are different for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

3. CAN I GET MEDICARE IF I GET SOCIAL SECURITY?

YES, if you are over age 65 or if you have been disabled for two years.

4. CAN I GET MEDICAID IF I GET SOCIAL SECURITY?

MAYBE. You can get Medicaid if you meet Hawai'i's eligibility rules. You can also look in Legal Aid's "Medicaid Facts" brochure. You might also get Medicaid if you used to get SSI but lost it when your Social Security check went up. Medicaid covers more than Medicare. Only Medicaid covers long term nursing home care and prescription drugs.

5. HOW DO I APPLY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY?

You can apply at your local Social Security office. You should take with you:

- * Your Social Security card

- * Proof of identity and age. If you don't have a birth certificate, you can take a driver's license, family records, or anything else that shows your birth date.

- * All your medical records and medicines you take, if you are applying for disability

- * All the information you have about jobs you have had.

6. WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF I ASK FOR SOCIAL SECURITY?

Social Security can take as long as they need to decide your case. If they turn you down, you have an appeal process that you can follow:

- * After your application is denied, you can request "Reconsideration" **within** 60 + 5 calendar days to ask them to change their minds. (SSA assumes that you get the notice 5 days after the mailing date so you actually have a total of 65 calendar days from the mailing date on the notice.)

- * If your Request for Reconsideration is also denied, you can request a hearing **within** 60 + 5 calendar days of the date on the denial notice. This hearing will be in front of an Administrative Law Judge. You have a right to see your files and also have someone to help you in the hearing.

- * If you lose this hearing, you have 60 + 5 calendar days to file an appeal to the Appeals Council in Washington, D.C. If you lose that appeal, you have 60 + 5 calendar days to file a lawsuit in federal court.

Call Legal Aid for more information.