

Social Security: Easy Access to Your Statements

July 2012

By Amanda Lott, CFP®, CRC®,
Wealth Advisor

Q: I haven't received a Social Security statement in the mail in a long time. How can I retrieve the information?

In 2011, the Social Security Administration stopped mailing physical Social Security statements to workers. The SSA just recently rolled out a website that allows workers to access information about benefits and to review their personal earnings record.

It's fairly simple to set up an account online. The worker will be asked to provide some personal information (name, address, SSN). There are also a few security questions (what company held the mortgage you took out in 2007, what street did you live on in 2003, etc.). Go to: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/mystatement/> to get started.

By having your customized benefits information, as opposed to a generic estimate, your Wealth Manager can provide a customized recommendation to optimize the benefits received by your family.

If you are concerned about security of creating an online account with SSA, here a few pointers:

1. The site has several security settings available that you can take advantage of to prevent fraud. For instance, you can tell the system to send you an alert every time someone logs into your account so that you can easily spot if it's been compromised. The sooner you set up your account, the sooner you'll be able to monitor it.
2. This site does not allow individuals to change benefit elections. It is simply a website that provides information to individuals who have not yet started to receive benefits.
3. The personal information used to access the website isn't stored on the site; to be frank, if anyone tried to "hack" your SSA online account, they'd have your personal information from some other source and wouldn't gain anything by logging in to this account.

If you have any questions or concerns, you should contact your financial advisor.



Important Disclosure Information

Please remember to contact RegentAtlantic if there are any changes in your personal or financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing our previous recommendations and services, or if you wish to impose, add, or modify any reasonable restrictions to our investment management services. A copy of our current written disclosure statement discussing our advisory services and fees is available for your review upon request. This presentation is not a substitute for personalized advice from RegentAtlantic. This information is current only as of the date on which it was sent. The statements and opinions expressed are, however, subject to change without notice based on market and other conditions and may differ from opinions expressed in other businesses and activities of RegentAtlantic. Descriptions of RegentAtlantic's process and strategies are based on general practice and we may make exceptions in specific cases.

RegentAtlantic. A better way.

1200 Mount Kemble Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960-6797

PH: 973-425-8420 FX: 973-425-8434

www.regentatlantic.com

