

# Social Media Toolkit: Survivors Benefits for Same-Sex Couples

## Survivors Benefits for Same-Sex Partners

Our mission is to promote economic security for our nation's people. For almost 90 years, our programs and services have expanded to support millions of Americans. Under the decisions in *Ely v. Saul* and *Thornton v. Commissioner of Social Security*, more surviving same-sex partners qualify for Social Security survivors benefits. Surviving same-sex partners may qualify for survivors benefits if:

- you would have been married at the time of your partner's death if state laws hadn't prevented you from doing so or
- you would have been married for at least nine months if not for state laws that prevented you from marrying earlier.

## What is the main message?

- Surviving same-sex partners who were prevented from being married for at least nine months or were never married because of unconstitutional state laws could be entitled to Social Security survivors benefits.
- If you think you may be entitled to benefits, we encourage you to contact us right away. You should apply even if you are not sure if you are entitled. Please call **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**) or contact your [local Social Security office](#).

## How can I help?

1. Share the social media messages below on your organization's social media and/or share posts from Social Security on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.
2. Join the conversations on our social media channels and be an active, positive voice in the comments.
3. Visit <https://www.ssa.gov/people/lgbtq/couples.html> for more information.

## Where can I learn more?

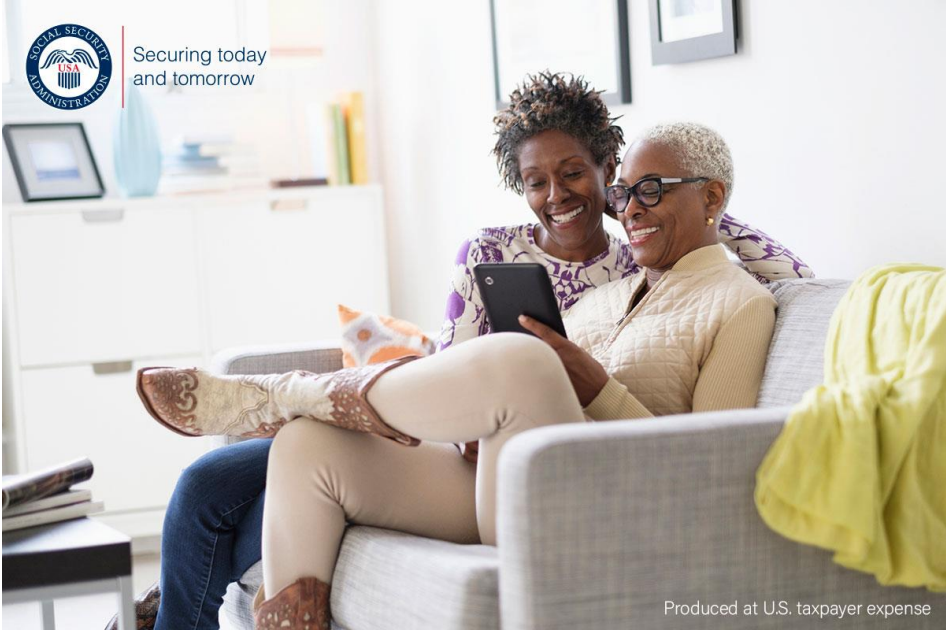
Social Security website: <https://www.ssa.gov/people/lgbtq/couples.html>

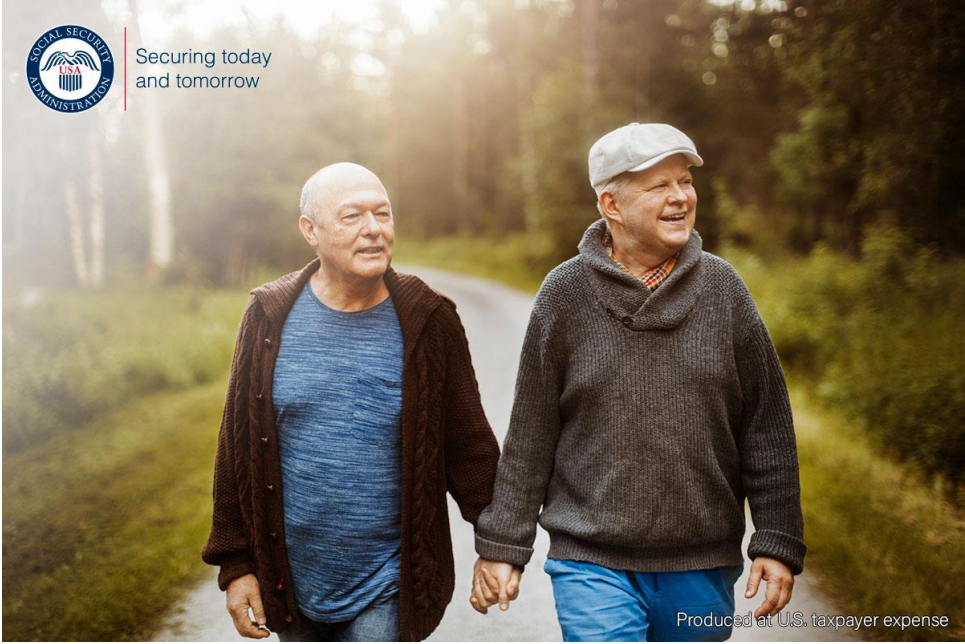
## Available social media posts:

- If you or someone you know was in a same-sex relationship with a partner who passed away, you may qualify for survivors benefits based on your partner's record. Learn more at <https://www.ssa.gov/people/lgbtq/couples.html>.
- Were you in a same-sex relationship with a partner who passed away? If so, you may be entitled to Social Security survivors benefits based on your partner's record. More surviving same-sex partners may now qualify for Social Security survivors benefits. Visit <https://www.ssa.gov/people/lgbtq/couples.html> to see if you meet the entitlement requirements.
- Survivors of same-sex relationships may be entitled to Social Security survivors benefits. Watch this video from #Social Security to learn more: <https://youtu.be/oGSDGUv300I>.
- Are you a surviving partner of a same-sex relationship who applied for Social Security survivors benefits but your claim was denied because you and your partner were never married or were not married for at least nine months? If so, you may be entitled to Social Security survivors benefits based on your partner's record. Read Social Security's blog to learn more about the entitlement requirements and how to apply: <https://blog.ssa.gov/>.
- Surviving partners of same-sex relationships who were not permitted to marry due to unconstitutional state laws may be entitled to Social Security survivors benefits. Our representatives can discuss entitlement, answer questions, and assist with applying for benefits. Learn more here: <https://www.ssa.gov/people/lgbtq/couples.html>.

# Shareable Images









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