



THE LEGAL ADVISOR

The official newsletter of Scranton Road Legal Clinic



GREAT NEWS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS

Written by Lillie Burkons, Staff Attorney

Social Security benefits will increase 5.9% in 2022, for about 70 million Americans. This increase is due to a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) because the cost of living has gone up. Social Security will mail notices throughout December, or you can log into your “my Social Security Account” online for more information.

Benefits will go out to 64 million Social Security Beneficiaries in January 2022. Eight million Social Security Income beneficiaries will start to receive their increases on Dec. 30, 2022.

According to ssa.gov, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2022 will be higher, \$147,000. Workers younger than full retirement age will see an earnings limit (the amount someone can earn from work and not be deducted their social security) increase to \$19,560. (SS will deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$2 earned over \$19,560.) In addition, the earnings limit for people turning their “full” retirement age in 2022 will increase to \$51,960. (SS will deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$3 earned over \$51,960 until the month the worker turns “full” retirement age.)

There is no limit on earnings for workers who are "full" retirement age or older for the entire year.

Be sure to never give out your social security number and other personal information to someone who contacts you online or on the phone. If you have any questions, log into your “my Social Security Account” online or call your local Social Security office.

COMMON LEGAL MISCONCEPTION



People commonly believe you need an attorney to notarize legal documents

This is untrue! While most attorneys are Notary Publics, you can get documents notarized by anyone who is a sworn Notary Public. Not all attorneys have completed the paperwork to become a Notary. Here are a few places that usually have a notary on staff and you can have documents, including your legal documents, notarized, for free or very low cost. If anyone is attempting to charge more \$5 for notarizing documents beware and find someone who is free or cheap. See several options below.

- Most US Postal Service Offices
- Most UPS Stores/FedEx Office Stores
- Most Clerk of Court have someone who can notarize
- Most public libraries have someone on staff who is a notary.
- Most Banks

It is best to call ahead to make sure a Notary will be present when you planning to go to any of the above locations. Also, Ohio passed a virtual notary law in 2020. You may also be able to find online service for notarizing documents, however beware of sending personal information via the internet.

GREAT NEWS: No Internet service? NOW...No problem!

Thanks to a Cleveland Foundation grant, Cleveland Public Library cardholders at least 18 years old can now check out "mobile hotspots," portable WiFi devices that provide access to free Internet. Checkout for the hotspots are 21 days long, but can not be renewed and are subject to \$0.10 a day late fees. Contact the CPL for more information: 216-623-2800.

UNUSUAL LAWS

Strange Laws Around the US

- Bear wrestling is prohibited in Alabama.
- You may not take a picture of a rabbit from January to April without an official permit in Wyoming.
- In Las Vegas, it is illegal to ride a camel on the highway.



**COMING UP SOON: 12/13/21 IN PERSON FAMILY LAW ADVICE CLINIC /WORKSHOP
CONTACT US AT 216.861.5323 TO SIGN UP NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Formed in 2012, Scranton Road Legal Clinic educates and empowers our neighbors to make educated and prudent legal decisions, while providing the holistic support for the spiritual, emotional and relational problems that often accompany legal concerns. We offer brief advice via our brief advice telephone line at 216.861.5323 or via our online intake form at www.scrantonroadministries.org/legal. Contact us today to discuss your legal need.