

Social Security Administration  
**Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance**  
Important Information

Date: August 10, 2010

Claim Number: . . . . .

I am writing to ask your help in making sure that we are paying you the correct amount of Social Security benefits. We need you to give us current information about your work.

Earlier, you told us that your earnings this year would be about \$14,344. Your plans, however, may have changed. Because we want to make sure that we are paying you accurately, we want you to check your estimate for this year, and let us know if it is different. We also need to know about your work plans for 2011.

The enclosed form has some questions about your work for this year and next year. After you complete it, please mail it in the enclosed envelope. We need to hear from you as soon as possible, because we need to know if your estimate for 2010 is still right. Also, if you do not return this form by **October 1, 2010**, we will use your 2010 earnings estimate to decide how much we will pay you in the first part of 2011.

Thank you for taking the time to assist us. We would like to give you the best possible service and hope that you find this form a convenient way to inform us about your work plans.

If you have any questions, you can call us toll free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. We can answer most questions over the phone. Our busiest times are the first week of the month and Mondays. So, we may be able to handle your call more quickly if you can call us at other times. If you prefer to visit or call one of our offices, use the 800 number and we can give you the office address and telephone number. Please have this letter with you if you call or visit an office. It will help us answer your questions.

Sincerely,



Commissioner  
Social Security Administration

Enclosures:  
Earnings Estimate Form SSA-L9779-SM-SUP  
Envelope

## Estimating Your Earnings for 2010 and 2011

We have put together a list of questions that will help you update your earnings estimate. Please answer them carefully. Before you answer our questions, we want to talk briefly about how to estimate your earnings.

### How to Estimate Your Earnings

It may not be easy for you to figure ahead of time how much you will make in 2010 and 2011. But if you keep these pointers in mind, you should have no problem.

- If you are paid wages, base your estimate on what you expect to earn before taxes or other deductions for the whole year. Be sure to include bonuses, vacation pay, sick pay, tips of \$20 or more a month, and any contribution that you make from your salary to a tax deferred savings plan.
- Drop from your estimate any money you will get from your employer this year for work you did last year or before. Also, do not include:
  - Social Security, railroad or civil service retirement, veterans, black lung or public assistance benefits;
  - pensions and other retirement payments which are not reported on your W-2 form;
  - investment income;
  - interest from savings accounts;
  - life insurance annuities and dividends;
  - gifts or inheritances;
  - gain (or loss) from the sale of capital assets;
  - rental income;
  - unemployment or worker's compensation;
  - jury duty payments.
- If you are self-employed, base your estimate on what you think your net earnings will be - just like on your tax return. If you became entitled to Social Security benefits **before** 2010: (1) do not include in your estimate any Federal agricultural program payments you expect in 2010; and (2) do not include self-employment income received in 2010 from carry-over crops for work you did **before** you became entitled to Social Security benefits.
- If you get both wages and income from self-employment, add the two amounts together. The total is your estimate.

(OVER)

- **You will reach full retirement age in DECEMBER 2013.**

Beginning with the month of full retirement age, the earnings limit no longer applies. If you will reach full retirement age in **January 2011**, you do not have to complete question 5 regarding your earnings for 2011.

People who reach full retirement age in February through December 2011 should exclude from their estimate of yearly earnings for 2011 any wages earned in the month they reach full retirement age and all following months. Self-employment income should be prorated based on the number of months under full retirement age. That is, divide expected net earnings (or loss) for 2011 by the number of months of self-employment and multiply this result by the number of months in 2011 before you reach full retirement age.

Now, you are ready to answer the following questions about your earnings. And again, it is important for us to hear from you.

Questions For

**1. Earlier, you told us you will earn \$14,344 this year. How much do you now think you will earn in 2010?**

Show your earnings for the whole year, including amounts you will earn both before and after you filed for Social Security benefits.

Show your answer in the space below.

Wages	\$		,			,			.		
Net Self-Employment Earnings	\$		,			,			.		
<b>Total Earnings</b>	\$		,			,			.		

Your Monthly Earnings.

So far you have figured out how much you plan to earn in 2010. Now you need to go back and estimate how much you will earn each month. We need to know this because we pay you based on how much you will earn each month.

It works like this. Usually, if you make more than the earnings limit, which in 2010 is \$14,160, we have to hold back some of your Social Security. But if we know how much you plan to earn in each month in 2010 we may be able to pay you more.

The same is true of self-employed people. The difference is that we will need to know how many hours you work in each month, instead of the amount of money you will earn.

For the following months in 2010, you previously told us that you will not earn over \$1,180 and will not work over 45 hours in self-employment.

NONE (THIS MEANS THAT OUR RECORDS INDICATE YOU ARE WORKING IN EVERY MONTH IN 2010)

**2. If you work for wages, put an "X" in the box under each month when you will earn \$1,180 or less. Be sure to do it for the whole year.**

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Please go on to the next question.

**3. If you are self-employed, how many hours will you work each month in 2010? Be sure to put something down for each month.**

Show your hours in the boxes below.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Your Retirement Plans

To help us make sure that we understand your answers, we would like to know if you have retired, or if you plan to retire this year.

**4. Have you retired, or do you plan to retire in 2010?**

If you retired, or plan to retire from your regular (full-time) employment in 2010, answer "YES" to this question even if you work or plan to work part-time.

Show an "X" in the box next to your answer.

**NO**, I have not retired and I am not going to retire this year.

**YES**, I have retired, or plan to retire this year.

If you answered "yes", please show your **retirement date** in the space below.

/   /

Month / Day / Year

Please answer question 5 on the next page.



## PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is authorized to collect information on this form under section 205 (a) and section 203 (h) (3), (4) of the Social Security Act. Giving us this information is voluntary. You do not have to do it, but we may not be paying you the right amount unless you give us this information.

We use the information you give us to insure that we are paying you correctly. However, we may share this information with another person or government agency to manage the Social Security program or other programs that must be coordinated with the SSA.

We may also use the information you give us in computer matching programs. Matching programs compare our records with those of other Federal, State, or local government agencies. Many agencies may use matching programs to find or prove that a person qualifies for benefits paid by the Federal Government. The law allows us to do this even if you do not agree to it.

Explanations about these and other reasons why information you provide us may be used or given out are available in Social Security offices. If you want to learn more about this, contact any Social Security office.

## PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement** - This information collection meets the requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3507, as amended by Section 2 of the **Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995**. You do not need to answer these questions unless we display a valid Office of Management and Budget control number. We estimate that it will take about 10 minutes to read the instructions, gather the facts, and answer the questions. **Send only comments on our time estimate above to: SSA, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235-0001.**