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**SOUTHERN
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What's Happening....

Is There a Maximum Amount of Social Security Disability Benefits That a Family Can Receive?

When an individual becomes eligible for Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits, certain family members who depend on the worker for income may also be eligible for family benefits based on the disabled worker's benefit.



Eligible family members can include:

- Your spouse
- Your divorced spouse
- Your unmarried children
- Your adult child who was disabled before age 22
- Your disabled child
- Grandchildren or parents of a disabled worker in very limited circumstances

You can find complete eligibility information for all of these family members in the Social Security Administration online brochure Disability Benefits, with additional information specifically on eligibility for children at Benefits for Children.

SSDI Maximum Family Amount

With so many potential beneficiaries receiving SSDI benefits based on just one disabled worker's earnings, you may wonder if there is a limit to the amount of benefits a family can receive.

There is a limit called the Maximum Family Amount - here's how it works:

The amounts that eligible family members can receive are based on the disabled worker's benefit and vary based on the relationship to the worker.

The total amount of payments made to eligible family members depends on: *.continued on page 2*

....continued from page 1 **Is There a Maximum Amount of Social....**

- The amount of benefit paid to the disabled worker, **and**
- The number of family members applying for benefits based on the worker's earnings.

Generally, individual family members would receive up to 50% of the workers benefit amount.

Here are 2 important notes to keep in mind about how family benefits affect payments:

- The SSDI benefits of the disabled worker **are never reduced** because a family member has applied for payments.
- Benefits paid to a divorced spouse generally **do not count** toward the maximum family benefit.

Determining the Maximum Family Benefit

The maximum family benefit is different for each disabled worker, but typically the total for the whole family including the disabled person is 150%-180% of the disabled worker's monthly benefit.

The rules governing the maximum family benefit and how each applicant's payment is calculated are complex. If you have any questions or concerns about your eligibility for benefits or the amount of your payments, we'd be happy to discuss your individual situation with you to ensure that you receive the payments you deserve.

From My Blog:

Four Most Common Fatal Los Angeles Construction Accidents

There are many hazards on construction sites that can result in serious and even fatal injuries. Here are four of the most common types of incidents on Los Angeles construction sites that lead to worker fatalities:

- **Falls:** Falls from ladders, scaffolds, and roofs are particularly common and dangerous. According to the Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA), of the 828 total fatalities in the construction industry that occurred in the year 2013, 291 involved falls to a lower level. These types of accidents are often preventable through the use of proper safety measures. Employers must plan projects in a way to ensure that workers are safe and workers must be provided proper training and fall safety equipment. Read the rest » <http://www.kentonslawoffice.com/blog/construction-accidents/four-common-fatal-los-angeles-construction-accidents/#more-984>

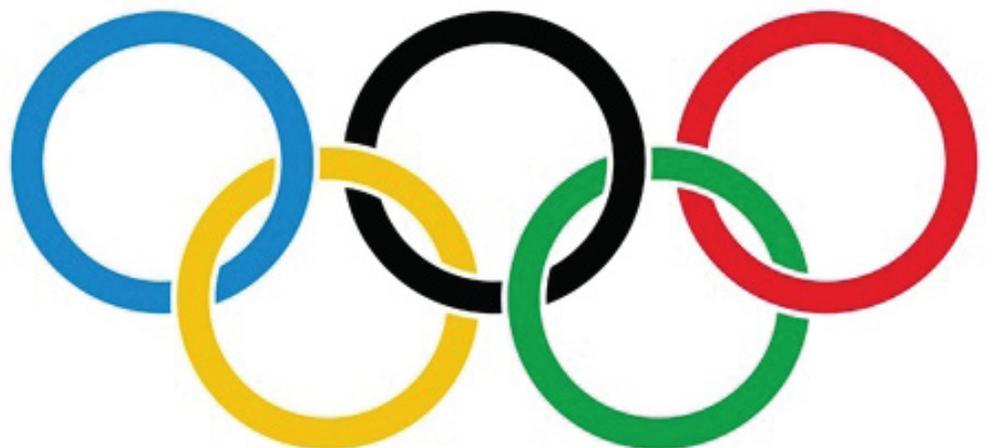


L.A. Summer Olympics of 1932 and 1984: Same Location but Worlds Apart

Los Angeles has been fortunate enough to host the summer Olympics not once, but twice! The two games occurred during widely different times: The 1932 games occurred in the midst of the worldwide Great Depression, while in 1984 14 countries from the Eastern bloc boycotted the 1984 games in a response to the U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow games.

Here's a fun compare/contrast of these two L.A. summer Olympics:

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....continued from page 2 **L.A. Summer Olympics of 1932 and 1984....**

- In both years L.A. was alone in the bidding competition for the games; Tehran dropped out of the bidding process in 1984 because of political and social changes.
- 37 nations participated in 1932, while in 1984 that number had exploded to 140.
- There were 5 times more athletes in 1984 (6,829 vs. 1,332). More than half of the athletes who competed in the 1928 games didn't show in 1932 because of the Depression.
- The athletes competed in 221 events in 21 sports in 1984, an increase over 1932's 117 events in 14 sports.
- President Herbert Hoover didn't bother to appear in 1932, sending instead Vice President Charles Curtis. However, President and California native Ronald Reagan was on hand to open the 1984 games.
- The 1932 summer games were the last without an Olympic torch relay. In 1984 Decathlete Rafer Johnson had the honor of lighting the cauldron.
- An Olympic village was constructed for the first time in Baldwin Hills for the 1932 games. Organizers for the 1984 games wisely used existing facilities for housing and competitions and only had to build a swim stadium and velodrome.
- The 1932 games showed \$1 million profit, while the 1984 games, acknowledged to be the most financially successful modern Olympics, reported a huge profit of \$250 million.
- The 1932 opening ceremony was considered to be a considerable step up in quality and excitement over previous games and included 3,500 musicians. In 1984 the ceremony included 85 grand pianos playing "Rhapsody in Blue."

Let's not forget one notable similarity between the 1932 and 1984 games: The U.S. dominated the medal count in both years, winning 41 gold in 1932 and 83 gold medals in 1984.

If you or a loved one has been denied Worker's Compensation or Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call **800-438-7734** for your initial free consultation, either in our office or in the comfort of your own home. The Kenton Koszdin Law Office, Social Security attorney in Van Nuys, can help you navigate the application process for the best possible outcome for you and your family.

Recipe of the Month

Summer Spinach Salad

Here's a great salad for the summer with spinach and fruit slices.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup canola oil
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 teaspoons poppy seeds
- 8 cups torn fresh spinach
- 3 green onions, sliced
- 2 pints fresh strawberries, sliced
- 3 large ripe bananas, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds, toasted

Directions

1. In a blender, combine the first six ingredients. Cover and process until the sugar is dissolved. Add the poppy seeds; process just until blended.
2. In a salad bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Drizzle with dressing; toss to coat. Yield: 14 servings.



**Is There a Maximum Amount of
Social Security Disability Benefits
That a Family Can Receive?**



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This newsletter is intended to educate the general public about probate, trusts, wills, and other issues. It is for information purpose only and should not be constructed as legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained in this publication, you should consult with experienced, competent counsel regarding your specific situation.

What's Happening in VanNuys & Southern California

Sept 1

Huey Lewis and The News
Humphrey's Concerts By The Bay
San Diego, CA
<http://sandiego.eventful.com/events/huey-lewis-and-news-/E0-001-092419782-7>

Sept 2

A Raisin in the Sun
Ruskin Group Theatre
Los Angeles, CA
<http://losangeles.eventful.com/events/raisin-sun-/E0-001-094945979-3@2016090220>

Sept 9

Blondie
Fairplex
Pomona, CA
<http://losangeles.eventful.com/events/blondie-/E0-001-093771881-5>

Sept 9

Long Beach Original Lobster Festival
Rainbow Lagoon
Long Beach, CA
<http://losangeles.eventful.com/events/long-beach-original-lobste-/E0-001-094074385-7@2016090912>

Sept 10

Shoreline Jam Reggae Festival
Queen Mary
Long Beach, CA
<http://losangeles.eventful.com/events/shoreline-jam-reggae-festival-/E0-001-094689644-3>

Sept 10

Led Zepagain & Rolling Stones Tribute
The Rose
Pasadena, CA
<http://losangeles.eventful.com/events/led-zepagain-rolling-stones-tribute-/E0-001-094555847-6>

Sept 14

Beyonce Formation Tour
Dodger Stadium
Los Angeles, CA
<http://losangeles.eventful.com/events/beyonce-formation-tour-/E0-001-095381386-4@2016091419>

Sept 24

Neil Sedaka
Saban Theatre
Beverly Hills, CA
<http://losangeles.eventful.com/events/neil-sedaka-/E0-001-094198442-4>