



Kenton Koszdin
LAW OFFICE

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KENTON KOSZDIN
LAW OFFICE

16600 Sherman Way
Suite 280, Van Nuys
CA 91406-3785

Phone: (818) 901-9999

Toll Free: (800) 438-7734

CONNECT ONLINE



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RISING STAR

Social Security and Divorce

We all plan for financial security and retirement once we reach a certain age. As we get married and grow older, we do such planning with our spouses to cater to our individual and collective needs, especially post-retirement. For unforeseen circumstances like death or divorce, these plans come to a bitter halt for at least one of the spouses.

No matter how much confidence and faith you have in your marriage, it is always good to know about Social Security and divorce regulations. You need to know where you stand with not only your own Social Security benefits, but also your partner's. You may also hire an attorney to assist you with getting Social Security even after a divorce or in case of the demise of your ex-spouse.



Several requirements need to be fulfilled for an individual to be eligible to receive Social Security payments based on the work record of their ex-spouse. They are as follows:

- A marriage of at least ten (10) years. Suppose you are in your 9th year of marriage and planning on getting a divorce. In that case, you should tread carefully as you may not be eligible to receive social security benefits before the 10-year threshold.
- If you have divorced your former spouse, you must not have remarried to be eligible for your ex-spouse's social security.
- If you remarry before filing for a social security claim based on your ex-spouse's work record, you may not be considered eligible to receive Social Security benefits.
- The claim can be made if you are older than 62 years.
- Your own Social Security based on your work record also matters. If your own Social Security benefits based on your work record are higher than that of your former spouse, then you will not be eligible to claim their Social Security.

For you to start the process, the Social Security Administration (SSA) requires the following documentation:

- A document to prove your U.S. Citizenship and/or legal status
- A document that provides proof of your birth (Birth Certificate)
- A document that shows legal proof of marriage (Marriage Certificate)
- An official order of the divorce
- The Social Security number of your former spouse
- Optional – Discharge papers from the military if you served before 1968

It's important to make informed decisions, especially when they concern your personal finances and your financial security once you reach retirement age. If you are divorced or plan to get divorced, you must contact an experienced Social Security lawyer before you make any decisions. The Van Nuys Social Security attorneys at Kenton Koszdin Law Office have represented many divorced or divorcing clients over the years and will use our expertise to fight on your behalf. Call us today at 800-438-7734 for a free consultation.

From My Blog

Understanding Social Security Benefits

Many people with disabilities do not claim benefits because they are unaware of their rights, are too embarrassed to ask for help, or find the system difficult to navigate.

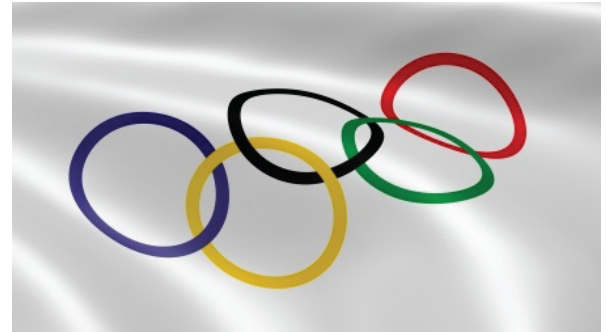
The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers two programs through which disabled persons can claim monthly compensation – Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). These programs are unique and have very different requirements and eligibility criteria.



[Click here to read more](#)

Highlights of the Squaw Valley 1960 Olympics

With the 24th Winter Olympics being hosted in Beijing, the media all over is flooded not only with the games but the athletes and teams as well. We get insights into the athletes' performances and can analyze their profiles through extensive media coverage of the games. However, this was not the case back in 1960! Compared to the current winter Olympics, the 1960 winter games were altogether a different event, in fact some would say "the first of its kind."



How did it all start? The Winter Olympics began in 1924 and had some well-established contending cities to host the games. In 1960, to everyone's surprise, the Olympic committee voted Squaw Valley Tahoe to host the games. The uninhabited valley overseeing Lake Tahoe is 300 kilometers (km) towards the east of San Francisco, California.

From here, started a series of "first time" events:

1. It was the first of its kind mega event to be televised in the U.S., with CBS paying a good sum of money for the games to be broadcasted.
2. At the time, the city had only one hotel and was largely just wilderness. The untamed territory was transformed into a sporting venue in record time that catered to numerous winter sports, athletes, trainers, and visitors in large numbers.
3. New sports were included in the event for the first time and new athletes set new world records! The men's biathlon and women's speed skating were included in the games for the first time. Overall, the events saw many underdogs and unfamiliar faces biting the gold.
4. Unexpectedly, bobsled (a sporting event with extremely limited participants) was eliminated from the event – again for the first time. The committee used the freed-up funds to build another track, yet another unprecedented milestone.
5. Some stories of the 1960 Winter Olympics were truly inspirational. The American ice hockey team made their name in history by clinching gold for the first time in U.S. history, and they did it after practicing for a mere by beating powerhouse teams like Canada and Russia.
6. We also saw some innovations being brought to the games as the French Skier Jean Vuarnet became the first person to win a gold medal wearing metal skis while everyone else was using wooden ones.

The success of bringing the Winter Olympics to Squaw Valley can be credited to the unapparelled efforts of one man, Alexander Cushing. His publicity stunt of bidding for the Olympics eventually led to the city becoming a hub of activity throughout the event.

From the venue's construction works, to new games, records being set, and traditions being established, the 1960 Winter Olympics go down as part of sports and Olympic history as a feat nothing short of remarkable!

If you or a loved one has been denied Workers' 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

Hearty Black Bean Quesadillas

These quesadillas are an easy vegetarian snack or light meal that are filling, flavorful, and freezer-friendly!

Ingredients

- 1 15oz.can black beans
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 1/2 cup red onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 1/4 bunch fresh cilantro (about ½ cup chopped)
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 10 flour tortillas (7-inch diameter)



Instructions

1. Drain the black beans and add them to a bowl along with the frozen corn (no need to thaw)
2. Finely dice the onion, mince the garlic, and roughly chop the cilantro.
3. Add the onion, garlic, cilantro, shredded cheddar, and taco seasoning to the bowl with the beans and corn. Stir until everything is evenly combined and coated in seasoning.
4. Place a half cup of the filling on one side of each tortilla and fold over. Cook the quesadillas in a skillet over medium heat on each side until brown and crispy and the cheesy filling has melted. Slice into triangles then serve.
5. To freeze the quesadillas, stack the filled and uncooked quesadillas with a piece of parchment paper between each quesadilla. Place in a freezer bag and freeze for up to three months. To reheat either microwave (for a soft quesadilla) or cook in a skillet on low heat (make sure to use low heat so that the filling has time to thaw and melt before the outside burns).

Recipe courtesy of budgetbytes.com



16600 Sherman Way
Suite 280, Van Nuys
CA 91406-3785
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Toll Free: (800) 438-7734

Social Security and Divorce



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What's Happening In Van Nuys & Southern California

Mar 18
Marc Anthony
Crypto.com Arena

Apr 12 – 17
Rent
Dolby Theatre

Mar 17 – May 1
Cirque du Soleil OVO
Microsoft Theater

Apr 26 – 30
Tootsie
Dolby Theatre

Apr 5
Journey & Toto
Crypto.com Arena

