

Life is Not for Sissies!

"What do you mean I'm going to receive an extra \$43,000 in benefits from Social Security?"

Julie Johnson came to see us because she is preparing for retirement. She wanted to review her financial situation to see how long her funds would last, and whether/how long she needed to continue working.

Julie was married for nearly 30 years, but divorced over two years ago. During the marriage her husband, Phil, was the primary bread winner. Phil has recently reached his Full Retirement Age (FRA), and Julie will be at Full Retirement Age next Summer.

Julie presented us her Social Security estimated benefits statement*. We used that information to run a report which provides all of her options for collecting benefits. The report included a suggestion for her best approach, as well as a caution for the least beneficial option.



Unbeknownst to Julie, one of her options was to apply for a spousal benefit under her ex-husband. The rules for eligibility include: Applicant must be at least 62, must have been married over 10 years, must be divorced at least 2 years, and the ex-spouse must be at full retirement age, but does not need to apply for his/her own benefits.** All of these stipulations are the case for Julie.

After reviewing all of her choices, her best option was to file and suspend collecting her own Social Security Benefit at full retirement age, and file to receive a spousal benefit.

With this choice, she will initially receive half of his benefit which is greater than her own. He will not be notified or penalized. She will delay taking her own benefits until age 70. In doing so, her benefits will be eligible to receive the delayed credits of 8% per year, plus cost of living adjustments.

At age 70 (the longest one can delay) she will apply for her own worker benefit. By that time her Social Security income benefit will have grown by an additional \$43,000!

By taking Social Security early, you will only receive 75% of your full retirement benefit. By delaying beyond full retirement, your benefit grows. Each individual's situation is different. It's worth your time to review all of your options because this is a decision for a lifetime.

[*http://socialsecurity.gov/retire2/divspouse.htm](http://socialsecurity.gov/retire2/divspouse.htm)

****Ex-spouse may remarry, but spouse collecting on the ex may not continue to collect spousal benefits if he/she remarries.**

About First Benefits Group, Inc.



We are financial and insurance educators.

Our approach is unique and uncommon. We teach our clients how to be more efficient with their money. We can verify that being more efficient with your money is the safest method for building a solid foundation of protection and wealth.

There is more to be gained by avoiding losses than picking apparent winners.

We are experts at identifying and providing solutions to any threats to current and future lifestyles.

To schedule a complimentary, no obligation appointment to discuss your personal circumstances, please call our office at 941.361.3057.

Terrance J. O'Brien, Frances Lane, Gary Hickerson,
BJ Mangrum, Matthew O'Brien

Quick Links

www.firstbenefits.net | www.ssa.gov



First Benefits Group, Inc.
306 N. Rhodes Avenue #111
Sarasota, Florida 34237
941-361-3057
www.firstbenefits.net