

Memorial Day Ceremony and Dinner Attended by Over 200



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. I regularly pay someone to cut my lawn and do other gardening chores. Are the wages I pay taxable for Social Security purposes?

A. They probably are. If you pay a household worker \$50 or more in cash wages during a 3-month calendar quarter, the law requires you to deduct Social Security taxes and to report the wages. A calendar quarter is a 3-month period that ends on March 31, June 30, September 30, or December 31.

Q. My wife and I both receive SSI. We've just started to tend a small vegetable garden in our backyard as a means of making our food dollar go farther. Will our payments be reduced on account of the garden?

A. Provided the home-grown produce is consumed by your household, it is not counted in figuring your income.

Q. My doctor has told me I need surgery for my condition. I would like to have a second opinion. Will Medicare pay for that?

A. Yes. Because even minor surgery involves some risk, it's always advisable to get a second opinion as to its necessity. Medicare will help pay for a second opinion in the same way it pays for other services by doctors.



Brides Need New Social Security Card

Brides who will be using their husband's name, along with anyone else who has had a recent name change, should contact any Social Security office to arrange to have their name changed in Social Security records and to apply for a new Social Security card showing their new name, a Social Security spokesperson said recently.

There is no charge for this service, its free, the representative said.

Unless the bride plans to

use her maiden name after marriage, Social Security records should be changed so that earnings are correctly reported to the right record.

Evidence of identity showing both the person's old and new names will be required. Only original documents or copies certified by the issuing agency are acceptable. Uncertified photocopies are not acceptable, the spokesperson said.

It will take about 2 weeks after acceptable evidence

has been submitted to get the new Social Security card. It will show the person's new name, but the original Social Security number.

More information about applying for a Social Security card can be obtained at any Social Security office. A free leaflet, *Applying for a Social Security number*, can be obtained at the office. The address and telephone number of the nearest Social Security office can be found in the telephone directory.