

REASONS NOT TO OPT OUT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Even if you already have 40 quarters of contributions or can receive benefits through a spouse's social security, there are reasons not to opt out.

1. A statement must be signed that you conscientiously oppose the acceptance of any public insurance that makes payment in the event of death, disability, old age, or retirement; or that, makes payments toward the cost of medical care. (Public insurance includes systems established by Social Security Act.)
2. If you agree to the above, then with good conscience could you accept monies or medicare services at the time of retirement either through previous contributions through 40 quarters or through a spouse's benefit?
3. It is possible that the government will look at this more closely at retirement and decide that you are not entitled to any benefit (even if earned) because of the signed statement above.
4. Social Security disability benefit is available only if you contributed to the plan for five of the last 10 years. If you are disabled and collect CPP, the benefit will be reduced by the amount Social Security pays or would pay after a maximum of two years.
5. Benefits to children may not be available if you opt out.
6. Social Security payments are based on the highest average of your last 35 years. If you opt out and do not contribute for 10 or 15 years prior to retirement, then there would be 10 or 15 years of zero calculated in the 35 years, thus de-valuing the benefit.