

**Supporting Statement for Form SSA-25**  
**Certificate of Election for Reduced Spouse's Benefits**  
**20 CFR 404.421**  
**OMB No. 0960-0398**

**A. Justification**

**1. Introduction/Authoring Laws and Regulations**

In accordance with section 202(q)(5)(A) of the *Social Security Act* and section 20 CFR 404.421 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, the Social Security Administration (SSA) cannot pay reduced benefits to an already entitled spouse unless the spouse elects to receive reduced benefits and is (1) at least age 62 but under full retirement age; and (2) no longer has a child in their care. In this situation, spouses who decide to elect reduced benefits must complete Form SSA-25, Certificate of Election for Reduced Spouse's Benefits.

**2. Description of Collection**

If entitled spouses decide to elect to receive reduced benefits, they must complete a Form SSA-25. SSA will reduce the benefits payable to an already entitled spouse, at least age 62 but under full retirement age, and who no longer has a child in their care. SSA uses the information to pay qualified spouses who elect to receive reduced benefits. Respondents are entitled spouses seeking reduced benefits.

**3. Use of Information Technology to Collect the Information**

Form SSA-25 is available on SSA's website for individuals to print, complete, and mail to SSA for processing. SSA did not create an electronic version of Form SSA-25 under the agency's Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) plan because only 30,000 respondents complete the form. This is less than the GPEA cut-off of 50,000.

**4. Why We Cannot Use Duplicate Information**

The nature of the information we collect and the manner in which we collect it preclude duplication. SSA does not use another collection instrument to obtain similar data.

**5. Minimizing Burden on Small Respondents**

This collection does not affect small businesses or other small entities.

**6. Consequence of Not Collecting Information or Collecting it Less Frequently**

If we did not use Form SSA-25, SSA would not be able to pay reduced benefits to qualified spouses. In addition, since SSA collects this information on an as-needed basis, we cannot collect it less frequently. There are no technical or legal obstacles to burden reduction.

**7. Special Circumstances**

There are no special circumstances that would cause SSA to conduct this information collection in a manner inconsistent with 5 *CFR* 1320.5.

**8. Solicitation of Public Comment and Other Consultations with the Public**

The 60-day advance Federal Register Notice published on May 9, 2018, at 83 FR 21328, and we received no public comments. The 30-day FRN published on July 26, 2018 at 83 FR 35526. If we receive any comments in response to this Notice, we will forward them to OMB.

**9. Payment or Gifts to Respondents**

SSA does not provide payments or gifts to the respondents.

**10. Assurances of Confidentiality**

SSA protects and holds confidential the information it is requesting in accordance with 42 *U.S.C.* 1306, 20 *CFR* 401 and 402, 5 *U.S.C.* 552 (Freedom of Information Act), 5 *U.S.C.* 552a (*Privacy Act of 1974*), and OMB Circular No. A-130.

**11. Justification for Sensitive Questions**

The information collection does not contain any questions of a sensitive nature.

**12. Estimates of Public Reporting Burden**

| <b>Modality of Completion</b> | <b>Number of Respondents</b> | <b>Frequency of Response</b> | <b>Average Burden Per Response (minutes)</b> | <b>Estimated Total Annual Burden (hours)</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| SSA-25                        | 30,000                       | 1                            | 2  | 1,000  |

The total burden for this ICR is **1,000 hours**. We based this figure on current management information data, and it represents burden hours. We did not calculate a separate cost burden.

**13. Annual Cost to the Respondents (Other)**

This collection does not impose a known cost burden on the respondents.

**14. Annual Cost to Federal Government**

The annual cost to the Federal government is approximately \$46,200. This estimate accounts for costs from the following areas: (1) designing, printing, and distributing the form; and (2) SSA employee (e.g., field office, 800 number, DDS staff) information collection and processing time.

**15. Program Changes or Adjustments to the Information Collection Request**

There are no changes to the public reporting burden.

**16. Plans for Publication Information Collection Results**

SSA will not publish the results of the information collection.

**17. Displaying the OMB Approval Expiration Date**

OMB granted SSA an exemption from the requirement to print the OMB expiration date on its program forms. SSA produces millions of public-use forms with life cycles exceeding those of an OMB approval. Since SSA does not periodically revise and reprint its public-use forms (e.g., on an annual basis), OMB granted this exemption so SSA would not have to destroy stocks of otherwise useable forms with expired OMB approval dates, avoiding Government waste.

**18. Exceptions to Certification Statement**

SSA is not requesting an exception to the certification requirements at *5 CFR 1320.9* and related provisions at *5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3)*.

**B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods**

SSA does not use statistical methods for this information collection.