2026 FOREWORD

Revised for this year's edition are Chapter 1 on Introduction to OASDI as well as Chapter 2 on Disclosure of Information. Chapter 1 includes updates on the current regional organization of the Social Security Administration, the current state of the HALLEX, Social Security payments outside the U.S., anti-assignment provisions concerning Social Security benefits, and bankruptcy. Chapter 2 includes updates on Social Security's implementation of the 2016 FOIA Improvement Act, disclosures under the FOIA and Privacy Act, and administrative and judicial appeals of denials of requests for information or the correction of records made under the FOIA and Privacy Act.

There are also new compassionate allowance conditions noted, updates have been made to Chapter 1A, additional cases have been added to Chapter 28, and new Emergency Messages and an SSR have been reported in Volume 4.

You will of course find the 2026 COLA, SGA levels, Medicare premium amounts, and other annual changes reported in this edition. We will continue keeping you up to date with the ever-changing rules and procedures at SSA.

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