Deciding when to take Social Security benefits is one of the most important financial decisions your parents will make. There are 3 things they should keep in mind to make smart claiming decisions:

1. The longer your parents wait to claim Social Security, the higher their monthly benefits will be. They can take retirement benefits any time between ages 62 and 70. But their benefits will be reduced if they claim them before their Full Benefit Age – and increased if they wait longer.

2. Your parents’ Social Security benefits are likely to grow faster than their investments. If your parents can make ends meet for a few years by drawing on other assets or working longer, it can really pay to wait.

3. Your parents’ health is an important factor. If they enjoy good health, it may pay for them to wait. If their health is a concern, it may pay for them to claim Social Security earlier.

Delaying benefits makes financial sense only if your parents will be healthy enough to receive benefits into their mid-80s and beyond. That way, they can make up for years of not claiming benefits by receiving higher lifetime benefits.

Depending on your parent’s situation, it may pay to wait — but it definitely pays to talk.

For more information, visit: www.nasi.org/WhenToTakeSocialSecurity