How to Get Proof of Social Security Numbers or Benefits

To efficiently meet the needs of the public, we made changes in how we provide some services to our customers. Effective August 1, 2014, we stopped providing Social Security number (SSN) printouts. Also, in January 2013, we made benefit verifications available online. The public can get an instant verification letter online with a personal *my* Social Security account, or they may continue to call us toll-free to request a letter by mail. Our local offices will continue to assist members of the community. Since we now offer more convenient services, we're asking agencies and other organizations to use our specially developed online methods to obtain this information, and assist our mutual customers in adjusting to this change.

Use Data Exchanges

Social Security has collaborated with federal, state, and local agencies to build hundreds of robust data exchanges during the past few years. We currently provide more than 1.6 billion electronic verifications of Social Security numbers or benefit information to employers, state, and local agencies, and other authorized third parties. Agencies and organizations should use available data exchanges to get the necessary verifications. For more information about our data exchanges, please visit us at ***www.socialsecurity.gov/dataexchange.***

In addition, Social Security offers online services to employers and other entities such as Social Security Number Verification Service (SSNVS) and Consent Based Social Security Number Verification Service (CBSV) (***www.socialsecurity.gov/bso/bsowelcome.htm***). Social Security works with USCIS to provide employers with E-Verify, an online program to verify employment eligibility of new hires. Employers just need to register with USCIS to use E-Verify (***www.uscis.gov/e-verify***).

How to Get Proof of a Social Security Number

Because Social Security number printouts are not official documents with security features, and are easily misused or counterfeited, eliminating printouts will help prevent identity theft. A Social Security card is legal proof of a Social Security number. If your agency or organization requires proof, and the person can't produce a card, that person will need a replacement card. To get a replacement card, a requestor must complete an *Application for a Social Security card* available at ***www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber***. The requestor must also provide original documents proving identity, age, and citizenship or work-authorized immigration status.

Encourage Clients to Use *my* Social Security

If your agency or organization doesn't have a data exchange with Social Security, whenever possible, please assist the public with creating a *my* Social Security account at ***www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount***. There, people can get a benefit verification letter online instantly. With a *my* Social Security account, anyone can conduct other business with us, such as reviewing their earnings records, and estimating their retirement, disability, and survivors benefits.

For More Information

To assist customers, ask for helpful publications, such as:

- *How to Create an Online Account* (Publication No. 05-10540);
- *Your Social Security Number and Card* (Publication No. 05-10002); and
- *What You Can Do Online* (Publication No. 05-10121).

Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us anytime, anywhere is to visit ***www.socialsecurity.gov*** where you can also take care of some business with an online *my* Social Security account.

Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at **1-800-325-0778** (TTY) if you're deaf or hard of hearing. We can answer your calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., week days. Or use our automated services via telephone, 24 hours a day. We look forward to serving you.

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