How To Get Proof Of Social Security Numbers Or Benefits

To efficiently meet the needs of the public, we will begin phasing-in two service changes. Starting February 2014, we will no longer issue Social Security number (SSN) printouts, and our field offices will stop providing benefit verification letters. The phase-in period will end in April 2014. As a result, we are 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.

Utilize 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 email us at *ORDP.Data.Exchange@ssa.gov*.

In addition, employers, departments of motor vehicles and other entities can obtain Social Security number verification in real time or overnight using online government services such as E-Verify (***www.uscis.gov/e-verify***) and Social Security's Business Services Online (***www.socialsecurity.gov/bso/bsowelcome.htm***).

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 cannot 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* (Form SS-5), available at ***www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber***. The requestor also must 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 does not 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, members of the public can also conduct other business with us, such as review earnings records and estimate retirement, disability, and survivors benefits.

For More Information

To assist customers, there is a wealth of information and online service options available on our website at ***www.socialsecurity.gov***. Or you can call our toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213** (TTY **1-800-325-0778**), and 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).

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