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Trending Popular Contact us Asked by: Prof. Titus Rowe PhD | Last update: February 1, 2025 Score: 4.7/5 (48 votes) If your client needs help submitting forms or documents, they should contact their local Social Security office at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator). Once we verify your clients' information, they will receive their replacement card by mail. Please understand that we do not issue cards at our offices or online. Can I get a replacement Social Security card at my local office? If you do not bring the application online, you will need to complete a paper Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5) and bring your required documents to a local Social Security office or Card Center. Can I get my Social Security card printed the same day? No, you cannot get a replacement Social Security card on the same day you request a replacement. The process typically takes around two weeks if all necessary documents are submitted at the time of application. Does Social Security give you a card the same day? Once you complete your application (online or in person), we will mail your card to the address that you provided on your application. You should receive your card within 7-10 business days. What is the fastest way to get a Social Security card? A Faster and More Convenient Way to Request a Social Security Number and Card Start the application online, self-schedule an appointment, then bring any required documents to your local Social Security office or card center to complete the process. Schedule an in-office appointment to complete your application. 32 related questions found The most convenient way to do business with us from any location and on any device is to visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) to get information and use our online services. Or, 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 call from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekdays. Once we verify your clients' information, they will receive their replacement card by mail. Please understand that we do not issue cards at our offices or online. Documents to prove your SSN NGB 22, W-2 Form (including W-2C, W-2G, etc.) SSA-1099 Form (including SSA-1099-SM, SSA-1099-R-OP1, etc.) Non-SSA 1099 Form (including 1099-DIV, 1099-MISC, etc.) How long does it take to get a replacement social security card? Once you have supplied all the necessary documents and your application is processed, the SSA says it takes about 10-14 days to get your new card. Replacing a Social Security card is free. To change vital information on your Social Security card, such as your name, go through the card replacement process. It's perfectly legal to make a photocopy of your Social Security card. It won't be of any use where proof of your SSN or eligibility to work in the United States is required. You'll need to show us a U.S. driver's license, a state issued non-driver identification card, or a U.S. passport to prove your identity. Sometimes you may also need to prove your current U.S. citizenship or lawful noncitizen status with a birth certificate or passport. While walk-ins are permitted, these visits can lead to longer waiting times, particularly during busy periods. To save time, consider calling the Social Security Administration's National 800 Number (1-800-772-1213), which operates Monday through Friday from 08:00 a.m. to 19:00, to schedule an appointment. The Social Security 5-year rule refers specifically to disability benefits. It requires that you must have worked five out of the last ten years immediately before your disability onset to qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Depending on your situation, you may be able to apply for a replacement card online. You might also consider calling the Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213 to report the lost social security card. Check your credit reports. Other acceptable evidence includes the following: Birth Certificate Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Employment Authorization Document Form I-94 or Form I-94A A social security card A W-2 form A SSA-1099 form A Non-SSA-1099 form A paystub showing full SSN Unfortunately, the Social Security Administration does not issue new Social Security cards on the same day. Whether you apply online or in person, the SSA needs time to verify your documents and process your request. The standard processing time is up to 14 business days from the date your application is approved. If you do need a replacement, we make it easy. Answer a few questions to see if you can complete the request online, or if you need to finish part or all of your request in person. Either way, you'll receive your Social Security card in the mail within 14 days after your application is completed. As long as you're only requesting a replacement card, and no other changes, you can use our free online service from the comfort of your home, office, and even the beach. You'll need to create a my Social Security account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount/). If you're in the U.S., you can apply online, then go to a local Social Security office to provide your documentation. Once your application is approved, you'll receive a Social Security card with your number on it by mail within 14 days. Our customers can get an instant verification letter online with a personal my Social Security account. Also, they may continue to call us toll-free to request a letter by mail. To see your own, personalized Statement PDF, create or log in to your personal my Social Security account. There, you can print, save, or download your own Statement PDF to check your earnings record and personalized benefit estimates. You can request a free replacement card. You may not need to replace your card if you know your Social Security number. In most cases, a physical card isn't necessary. You can use a Social Security card as an ID, to get a job, or collect benefits. Learn how to replace or correct a card. And find out how to get one for yourself or a baby. Reading Time: 5 minutes In the United States, it is legal to photocopy your social security card. There are a few reasons why you may want to do this: you may need to provide a copy of your card to your employer, or you may need to show your card to a bank or other financial institution. The social security card is a federally-issued identification card. It is used to prove your identity and to track your wages for the purpose of determining your eligibility for social security benefits. The social security number (SSN) is a unique identifier that is assigned to you when you are issued a social security card. Your social security card is not a credit card, and you should not use it as such. The social security number is not a password, and you should not use it as such either. It is important to keep your social security card and SSN confidential, and to not share them with anyone who does not need to know them. If you lose your social security card, you should report it to the Social Security Administration (SSA) as soon as possible. You can report a lost or stolen card online at [LostCard.action](http://LostCard.action), or you can call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213. You may also want to file a police report if your card is lost or stolen. If you need to provide a copy of your social security card to your employer, you can print a copy from the SSA's website. The website has a printable social security card application that you can fill out and print. You can also request a replacement social security card online. If you need to provide a copy of your social security card to a bank or other financial institution, you can typically just photocopy it. However, some institutions may ask to see the original card. If this is the case, you can take the photocopy of your card to the institution and they will likely be able to make a copy of the original card. It is important to keep in mind that your social security card is not a passport or a driver's license. It is not valid for identification purposes outside of the United States. Can a Social Security card be copied? Yes, a Social Security card can be copied, but there are a few things to keep in mind. First, a Social Security card is not a government-issued ID. So, if you need to show your Social Security card as proof of identity, you may not be able to do so if it's been copied. Second, a Social Security card is not a credit card. So, if you need to use your Social Security card to open a bank account or get a loan, you may not be able to do so if it's been copied. Finally, a Social Security card is not a passport. So, if you need to use your Social Security card to travel outside of the United States, you may not be able to do so if it's been copied. Can I use a scanned copy of my Social Security card? Can I use a scanned copy of my Social Security card? Yes, you can use a scanned copy of your Social Security card as long as the image is clear and legible. Is it a crime to laminate your Social Security card? So you've got a shiny new Social Security card and you want to make sure it stays in good condition. You might be tempted to laminate it. But is that actually allowed? The answer is yes, you are allowed to laminate your Social Security card. But there are a few things you should know before you do. First of all, it's important to understand that laminated Social Security cards are not considered to be originals. This means that if you need to show your card to someone, they might not be able to accept it if it's laminated. Read also Legal Tint In Arizona Additionally, if your card is damaged or lost, a laminated copy might not be accepted as a replacement. So if you do laminate your card, be sure to keep a non-laminated copy as well. Laminating your Social Security card is a good way to protect it from damage, but it's important to be aware of the potential drawbacks. So if you're thinking of doing it, be sure to weigh the pros and cons carefully. Can I print out my social? Yes, you can print out your social media profile pages. This is a great way to keep a physical copy of your information in case something happens to your account or the website goes offline. To print out your social media profile pages, open the website in a web browser and select the "Print" option from the file menu. This will open the print dialog box. In the print dialog box, select the "Pages" option and enter the page numbers of the profile pages you want to print. Then click the "Print" button. The pages will print out on your printer. What type of paper are Social Security cards printed on? What type of paper are Social Security cards printed on? The Social Security Administration (SSA) has used a variety of paper for Social Security cards over the years. The agency switched to a synthetic paper in 1994, but returned to using plain paper in 2011. Social Security cards are currently printed on a special paper that has a security feature called a "tinted background." The paper is a type of plastic that is difficult to duplicate. The SSA began using synthetic paper in 1994 because it was more difficult to forge than the paper used previously. However, the agency discontinued the use of synthetic paper in 2011 because it was not as durable as plain paper. Read also Change My Legal Name Social Security cards are now printed on a paper that has a security feature called a "tinted background." How can I prove my Social Security number without a card? How can I prove my Social Security number without a card? If you do not have your Social Security card, there are a few ways you can prove your number. One way is to bring a W-2 form or pay stub with your Social Security number on it. You can also bring your driver's license or state ID card. If you do not have any of those documents, you can bring a birth certificate or passport. Is a picture of your Social Security card valid? Your social security card is an important document. It is the key to receiving benefits like unemployment, social security, and Medicare. So, it's important to know if a picture of your social security card is valid. The answer is yes, a picture of your social security card is valid. As long as the image is clear and legible, it will be accepted by the government. This means that you can use a picture of your social security card as proof of identification when applying for benefits or when dealing with other government agencies. Keep in mind that your social security card is not supposed to be used as identification. It's only meant to prove that you are the person who is named on the card. So, if you are ever asked to show your social security card, be sure to also have some other form of identification with you. It's also a good idea to keep your social security card in a safe place. If it gets lost or stolen, you'll need to replace it as soon as possible. To do this, you'll need to provide some documentation, like your birth certificate or driver's license. So, if you're ever asked to show your social security card, you now know that a picture of it is valid. Just be sure to have some other form of identification with you, too. Social Security gives us assurance against certain social conditions that may occur, such as retirement or the sudden death of a bread winner. It's funded through dedicated payroll taxes known as the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) [source: SSA]. or Damaged Cards: Over time, cards may become damaged and illegible, necessitating a replacement. New Arrival: New U.S. citizens or residents may need to visit the office Risk of documents getting lost, longer processing Important Considerations Security: Keep your Social Security card safe and only carry it when necessary to prevent identity theft. Digital Alternatives: For convenience and security, consider storing your Social Security number digitally but securely. Further Reading and Resources Visit the Social Security Administration Website for more details. Explore related informational content to understand the broader scope of services, like applying for benefits and understanding Social Security credits. In conclusion, obtaining a copy of your Social Security card is a manageable task if approached with proper documentation and understanding of the process. Remember to safeguard your card once received to prevent the need for frequent replacements and the associated risks of identity theft. If you're interested in learning more about the Social Security Administration or related topics, feel free to browse other informative content available on our website. 1 Report your lost or stolen card to the proper authorities. If you think your card has been lost or stolen, immediately report it to the Social Security Office. If the card has been stolen, you should also contact the following offices:[1] 2 Print the Social Security Form SS-5. In order to get a duplicate social security card, you must print out Form SS-5: Application for a Social Security Card.[2] The U.S. Social Security Administration allows individuals to print Form SS-5 from its website. To download Form SS-5, you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer and the ability to download PDF files. This program can be downloaded for free from Adobe's website. Download and print Form SS-5 from the Social Security Administration's website. 3 Fill out Form SS-5. Once you've printed out a hard copy of the form, fill it out with your information. 4 Gather proof of citizenship or immigration status. You must provide originals or copies of specific, certified documents proving your citizenship in order to get a new social security card.[3] The only approved forms of citizenship include a U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport, U.S. consular report of birth, Certificate of Citizenship or a Certificate of Naturalization. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you must provide immigration documents with your applications for replacement Social Security cards. The only acceptable documents are Form I-551, I-94 with an unexpired foreign passport, or a Department of Homeland Security work permit card. Photocopies and notarized copies are not acceptable. They must either be originals or copies certified by the issuing agency.[4] These documents will be sent back to you. 5 Provide proof of identity. Individuals may prove their identity in one of several ways. All documents must be current and show name, identifying information and a recent photograph.[5] The most common documents used to prove identity are a U.S. driver's license, a state-issued identification card or a U.S. passport. If these documents are not available, you may use an employee identification card, a school identification card, a marriage document, adoption decree, life insurance policy or a U.S. military identification card. The identification document needs to have a recent photograph of the applicant. 6 Find your local Social Security Office. You can either submit your application in person or you can mail it. Find your local Social Security Office by visiting the Social Security Administration website or calling 1-800-772-1213. It may be preferable to visit the Social Security Office in person, since you need to bring the originals of your identification. Remember, if you need to mail in your driver's license as proof of identity, you won't be able to drive until you get it back. Be sure to check the hours for the office. They may have limited hours on certain days of the week. 7 Submit your application to the Social Security Office. Mail or take the SS-5 form and all necessary documents to the proper Social Security office. You must submit at least 2 of the qualifying documents: one to prove your identity and one to prove your citizenship. If you mail your application to the Social Security Administration, it takes approximately 10-14 days after the Office receives your application. 8 Wait for your card to arrive by mail. Once the Social Security Administration processes your application, you will be issued a new card. It will be sent to your house in the mail. 1 Print and fill out the SS-5 form. If you have never had a Social Security Number, you will need to apply for one. This process is the same for everyone over the age of 12.[6] If you have immigrated to the United States and have become a citizen or are a permanent resident, you can qualify to receive a social security number. If you are a United States citizen over the age of 12 and you have never had a Social Security number, you are entitled to obtain one. 2 Find your local Social Security Office. You must submit your application in person. Find your local Social Security Office by visiting the Social Security Administration website or calling 1-800-772-1213. Be sure to check the hours for the office. They may have limited hours on certain days of the week. 3 Bring proof of identity. The Social Security Administration accepts only certain documents as proof of identity. An acceptable document must be current (not expired) and it must show your name, identifying information and preferably a recent photograph. Social Security will ask to see: A U.S. driver's license, A state-issued non-driver identification card, or A passport as proof of identity. 4 Bring proof of citizenship or immigration status. Social Security will want to determine that you are either a citizen or that you are in the U.S. as an immigrant. If you are not a U.S. citizen, Social Security will ask to see your current U.S. immigration documents. Acceptable documents include: Form-551, Permanent Resident Card (green card, includes machine-readable immigrant visa with your unexpired foreign passport); I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, and your unexpired foreign passport; or I-766, Employment Authorization Card (EAD, work permit). 5 Bring proof of age. The individual's birth certificate is the top choice for proving age. If a birth certificate exists, then you must submit it with the application. If a birth certificate does not exist, the Social Security Administration may be able to accept: Religious record made before the age of 5 showing the individual's date of birth U.S. hospital record of birth Passport 6 Submit your application to the Social Security Office. Take the SS-5 form and all necessary documents to the proper Social Security Office. Be sure to bring proof of identity, age, and citizenship or immigration status. 7 Be ready for an interview. Additionally, when you appear at the Social Security office to apply for a card, you will be required to go through an "interview." This will establish that you have not been assigned another Social Security Number.[7] Call your local office for information on the interview process. 1 Request a Social Security Number when getting your infant's birth certificate. When you have a baby, one of the things that should be on your to-do list is getting him or her a social security number. If you have your baby in a hospital, the hospital will have a process for you to apply for the number. To apply for a social security card for your infant, simply check the "yes" box at your hospital when you are requesting your child's birth certificate. While you can wait to get your child a social security number, the process will be more involved and will require an in-person visit to the Social Security Office. 2 Print and fill out the SS-5 form. To fill out this application, you will be required to provide information about the parents of the child (social security number, address, and phone number). 3 Bring identification for your child. You must show original or certified copies of documents that prove your child's U.S. citizenship, age and identity.[8] Proof of citizenship: U.S. birth certificate, U.S. consular report of birth, U.S. passport, Certificate of Naturalization, or Certificate of Citizenship Proof of age: U.S. birth certificate, foreign birth certificate, religious record made before the child turned 5, passport, or U.S. hospital record of birth Proof of identity: U.S. passport, doctor or hospital record, religious record, daycare or school record, or school ID card. This document should have a recent photo on it. If you don't have a document with a photo, you need to bring proof of identity that has enough information to identify the child (such as child's name date of birth, and parents' names). 4 Bring picture identification for the child's parent or parents. The most common documents used to prove a parent's identity are a U.S. driver's license, a state-issued identification card or a U.S. passport. If these documents are not available, you may use an employee identification card, a school identification card, a marriage document, adoption decree, life insurance policy or a U.S. military identification card. The identification document needs to have a recent photograph of the parent. 5 Find your local Social Security Office. You can either submit your application in person or you can mail it. Find your local Social Security Office by visiting the Social Security Administration website or calling 1-800-772-1213. It may be preferable to visit the Social Security Office in person, since you need to bring the originals of your identification. Be sure to check the hours for the office. They may have limited hours on certain days of the week. 6 Submit your application to the Social Security Office. Mail or take the SS-5 form and all necessary documents to the proper Social Security Office. The Social Security Office must verify your child's birth record. Be aware that this can take up to 12 weeks before the card will be issued.[9] 7 Wait for your card to arrive by mail. Once the Social Security Administration processes your application, you will be issued a new card. It will be sent to your house in the mail. 1 Download and print the SS-5 application form. If you have adopted a child from outside of the United States, you will need to get him a social security number by applying to the Social Security Office.[10] 2 Fill out the form. To fill out this application, you will be required to provide information about the parents of the child (social security number, address, and phone number). 3 Provide an identity document for the child. You will need to show some proof of the child's identity when applying for a Social Security Number. You can use one of the following documents for this purpose:[11] An adoption record A United States Department of Homeland Security immigration document Hospital or doctor records Daycare or school records Religious records (such as a baptismal record) 4 Provide proof of age for the child. For an adopted child, you will also need an original copy of your child's foreign or U.S. birth certificate and adoption decree. This will attest to the child's age. 5 Bring picture identification for the child's adoptive parent or parents. The most common documents used to prove identity are a U.S. driver's license, a state-issued identification card or a U.S. passport. If these documents are not available, you may use an employee identification card, a school identification card, a marriage document, adoption decree, life insurance policy or a U.S. military identification card. The identification document needs to have a recent photograph of the parent. 6 Find your local Social Security Office. You can either submit your application in person or you can mail it. Find your local Social Security Office by visiting the Social Security Administration website or calling 1-800-772-1213. Be sure to check the hours for the office. They may have limited hours on certain days of the week. 7 Submit your application to the Social Security Office. Take the SS-5 form and all necessary documents to the proper Social Security office. 8 Be sure to follow up with a Certificate of Citizenship. If you are in the middle of an international adoption, you do not need to have your child's Certificate of Citizenship in order to obtain a Social Security Number. You must, however, provide this document to the Social Security Administration when you receive it. It may be more convenient to wait to apply for a Social Security Number until you receive your child's Certificate of Citizenship. If your taxes are due, however, it might make sense to apply immediately for the Social Security Number. Remember to show the Certificate of Citizenship to the Social Security Office when you receive it. 9 Wait for your card to arrive by mail. Once the Social Security Administration processes your application, you will be issued a new card. It will be sent to your house in the mail. Ask a Question Thanks Thanks Thanks This article was co-authored by Clinton M. Sandvick, JD, PhD. Clinton M. Sandvick worked as a civil litigator in California for over 7 years. He received his JD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1998 and his PhD in American History from the University of Oregon in 2013. This article has been viewed 311,857 times. Co-authors: 19 Updated: March 8, 2024 Views: 311,857 Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 311,857 times. Official websites use .gov A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States. Secure .gov websites use HTTPS A lock ( A locked padlock ) or https:// means you're safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites. Official websites use .gov A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States. Secure .gov websites use HTTPS A lock ( A locked padlock ) or https:// means you're safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites. Manage your Social Security number, which is your first and continuous connection to us.