

## **How do I replace a lost Social Security card?**

To replace a Social Security card you need to submit a completed application form to the Social Security Administration. There is no charge for this service.

### **What Form is Needed?**

Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, is the appropriate form to request either an original Social Security number, a replacement card, or to correct your card. The form includes instructions for completion and discusses the documents that must be submitted with it in more detail than below.

### **Where Do I Get the Form?**

You can access Form SS-5 by clicking [here](#) (pdf). You may also request Form SS-5 by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213.

### **What Evidence Must I Submit?**

Applicants for replacement or corrected cards must present evidence to establish their identity and, sometimes, their current United States citizenship or lawful alien status. When requesting a Social Security number card, the documents presented as evidence must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept uncertified or notarized photocopies as evidence since we cannot verify their authenticity. We will return your original documents.

We need a document identifying you as the person shown on our records. The document must be of recent issuance so that we can determine your continued existence. Generally, we prefer to see a document with a photograph. However, we can generally accept a non-photo identity document if it has enough information to identify you (e.g., your name as well as your age, date of birth, or parents' names).

If you were born outside of the U.S, we also need proof of your U.S. citizenship or lawful alien status.

Some documents that we can accept as proof of identity are:

Driver's license; Marriage or divorce record; Military records; Employer ID card; Adoption record; Insurance policy; Passport; Health Insurance card (not a Medicare card); School ID card

If you are applying to replace a card for a child, you will need to submit a document identifying your child, as well as a document identifying you since you will be applying for the card on your child's behalf. The identity document must be of recent issuance so that we can determine your child's and your continued existence. Generally, we prefer to see a document with a photograph. However, we can usually accept a non-photo identity document if it has enough information to identify you (e.g., your name as well as your age, date of birth, or parents' names).

For children, some examples of evidence of identity include:

- an immunization record,
- school record (report card, ID card, etc.),
- religious record (e.g., baptismal certificate).

**Where Do I Send the Form?**

Form SS-5 should be mailed or taken in person to your local office. There are too many offices to list them here (about 1,400), but you can find your local office by clicking [here](#) or by calling 1-800-772-1213, or by looking in the blue pages of your phone book under "US Government".

**When Will I Receive the New Card?**

Generally, a replacement SSN card will be mailed within one week if you applied in person and two weeks if you applied by mail. If you have not received your Social Security Number card within these time frames, you should contact the Social Security office where you filed the application and they will investigate to see why it is being delayed. However, Social Security is responding to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and to the problem of identity fraud by changing the way Social Security numbers and cards are issued in some cases. This may delay the mailing of your new card by up to 3 months.