Documents You Need For A Social Security Card

Replacement Card For A U.S. Born Adult

You can replace your Social Security card for free if it is lost or stolen. However, you may not need to get a replacement card. Knowing your Social Security number is what is important. You are limited to three replacement cards in a year and 10 during your lifetime. Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits. For example, changes in immigration status that require card updates may not count toward these limits. Also, you may not be affected by these limits if you can prove you need the card to prevent a significant hardship.

To get a replacement card:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Step 2</th>
<th>Step 3</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>OBTAIN</strong> original documents proving</td>
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<td>- U.S. citizenship; and</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Identity.</td>
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<td><strong>FILL OUT AND PRINT</strong> an application (Form SS-5)</td>
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<td><strong>TAKE OR MAIL</strong> your application and documents to Social Security</td>
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**Important**

All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. We also cannot accept a receipt showing you applied for the document.

Get a **certified copy of a document** showing a birth, marriage or divorce that took place in the U.S.

We will mail your card as soon as we have all of your information and have verified your documents. Your replacement card will have the same name and number as your previous card.
What Original Documents Do I Need?

**Citizenship**

If you have not already established your U.S. citizenship with us, we need to see proof of U.S. citizenship. We can accept only certain documents as proof of U.S. citizenship. These include a U.S. birth certificate or U.S. passport.

**Identity**

We can accept only certain documents as proof of identity. An acceptable document must be current (not expired) and show your name, identifying information (date of birth or age) and preferably a recent photograph. For example, as proof of identity Social Security must see your:

- U.S. driver's license;
- State-issued nondriver identification card; or
- U.S. passport.

If you do not have one of these specific documents or you cannot get a replacement for one of them within 10 days, we will ask to see other documents, including:

- Employee ID card;
- School ID card;
- Health insurance card (not a Medicare card); or
- U.S. military ID card.

**Note**

We may use one document for two purposes. For example, we may use your U.S. passport as proof of both citizenship and identity.

*Last reviewed or modified 06/20/2013*