

## What If I Lose My Baby's Social Security Card?

Keep your baby's Social Security card in a safe place. It's an important document. However, should you lose the card, Social Security will replace it at no charge. Just contact your nearest Social Security office.

## Other Important Information

When you apply for a Social Security number, all information provided is kept strictly confidential and is not disclosed except as provided for under the law.

## For More Information

You can get recorded information about Social Security coverage 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays, by calling Social Security's toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213**. You can speak to a service representative between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days. Our lines are busiest early in the week and early in the month so, if your business can wait, it's best to call at other times. Whenever you call, have your Social Security number handy.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our toll-free "TTY" number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days.

You can also reach us on the Internet. Type [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) to access Social Security information.

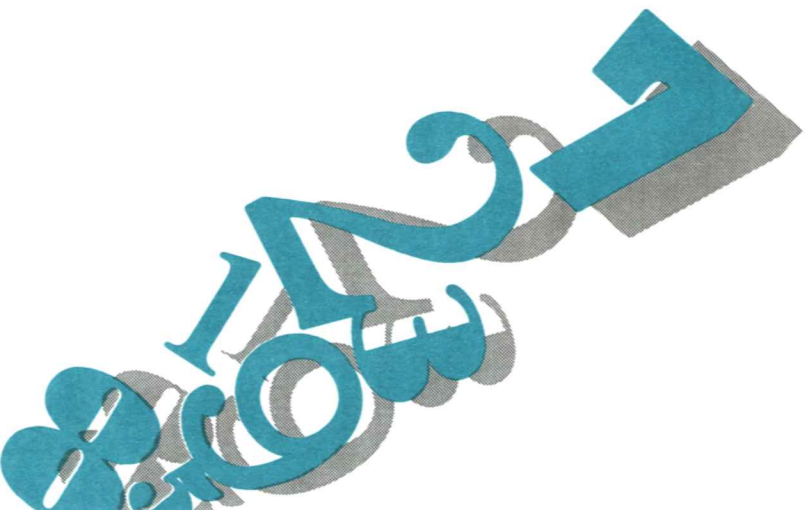
We treat all calls confidentially — whether they're made to our toll-free numbers or to one of our local offices. We also want to make sure that you receive accurate and courteous service. That's why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some incoming and outgoing telephone calls.



**Social Security Administration**  
SSA Publication 05-10023  
February 1999 (*January 1998 edition may be used*)  
ICN 454925  
Unit of Issue — HD (one hundred)

# Social Security

## Numbers For Newborns



Printed on recycled paper

## Social Security Numbers For Newborns

You have a lot of things on your mind when you have a baby. We realize that getting a Social Security number isn't at the top of your list of "things to do." But we're using this opportunity to tell you why it's important that you get a number for your baby and how easy it is to get one. We'll also answer some other questions you might have about Social Security numbers.

### Why Should I Get A Social Security Number For My Baby?

The main reason you should get a Social Security number is to claim your baby as a dependent on your income tax return. Any child you claim as a dependent on your income tax return must have a number, regardless of age. And, getting a Social Security number is just the beginning of the valuable protection and benefits your child may be eligible for in the future.

### How Do I Apply For A Social Security Number For My Baby?

You don't need to fill out a special application or go to a Social Security office to get a Social Security number. When your hospital representative or

doctor asks you for the information needed to complete your baby's birth certificate, all you have to do is tell them to have your state's vital statistics office share the information with the Social Security Administration. If you do, a Social Security card will be mailed to you. It's as easy as that!

### What Are The Advantages Of Getting A Social Security Number When My Baby Is Born?

Young children need Social Security numbers for many reasons, in addition to the tax reason mentioned earlier. If you plan to open a bank account, buy savings bonds, obtain medical coverage or apply for some kinds of government services for your child, then your child will need a number.

You can apply for a number at birth or you can wait and get one from us later. The choice is yours. However, applying for a number **at birth** means that you won't have to visit a Social Security office in person, fill out a special application form, or submit a birth certificate or other evidence to us when you need the number. To apply for a number **at birth**, all you have to do is tell your hospital representative or

doctor to have the information on your baby's birth certificate sent to Social Security. But, the choice is up to you.

### Must My Baby Have A Social Security Number Now?

No! Getting a Social Security number for your baby is strictly **voluntary**. You won't get a number unless you ask for one when you provide the information for your baby's birth certificate.

If you decide not to ask for a number when your baby is born, you can get one later by contacting the nearest Social Security office. Of course, you'll be asked to provide evidence that you are the child's parent or legal guardian and your Social Security number, and evidence of your child's age, identity and citizenship. Your local office can provide you with more information.

### Will I Have To Pay To Receive A Number?

No! There is **never** a charge for a Social Security card and number.

If you're contacted by someone who wants to charge you for getting a card or number, or for any Social Security service, please be aware that the same services are available **free of charge** from us.