



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21225

AUG 23 1979

Ms. Georgia M. Myrick
5028 Jack Pine Drive
Montgomery, Alabama 36116
Refer to: SJC

Dear Ms. Myrick:

Your letter of July 27, 1979, to Mr. Kenneth Jennings has been referred to me for reply since matters pertaining to applications for social security numbers and cards come under my general direction.

The social security number you received was assigned to you on the basis of a valid application and supporting evidence, and we cannot void the record. Even though we cannot void your record, we have destroyed the social security card which you returned to us, and we will not release information about your number without your consent. Your social security number and record will not be used at all unless you yourself activate the record by using it for employment or other purposes.

When a person is assigned a social security number, the primary purpose of the number is to record that person's earnings. Once a number is assigned, the Social Security Administration has no control over who might request a person to provide their number. Neither does the Social Security Administration have the authority to require an organization to provide or deny services to anyone who refuses to disclose their number.

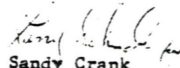
As Mr. Jennings advised you in his July 13, 1979, letter, you should request present and future employers to enter the phrase, "religious objector" in the space provided for a social security number when they report your wages and taxes. You may show this letter to your employer(s) to show that your request is valid.

Based on regulations published by the Internal Revenue Service, social security numbers are required on income tax forms as the taxpayer identification number. If you are required to file an income tax return, we suggest you contact the Internal Revenue Service in your area to explain your position, and they will advise you on what procedures you should use.

We are unable to return the social security application which you completed. However, that application form will be destroyed eventually because our procedures require that all social security number applications be destroyed after a period of time. As requested, we have enclosed a copy of your 4-page letter for your records.

Again, I want to reemphasize that your record will not be used unless you yourself decide to activate it, and we will not release any information about your number without your consent.

Sincerely yours,


Sandy Crank
Acting Associate Commissioner
for Operational Policy and Procedures

Enclosure