



**Evidence List for an Undocumented Immigrant and/or Child to Obtain Social Security Numbers**

**By Krisztina Szabo, Amanda Baran, Soraya Fata and Leslye E. Orloff  
March 21, 2014**

This list is designed to provide advocates working with battered immigrants with a tool that will help them work more effectively in obtaining social security numbers. Many federal and state benefits agencies require a social security number in order to issue the cash benefit. Therefore, battered immigrants who do not have a USCIS issued work authorization will need to apply for a non-work social security number.

Advocates are strongly encouraged to accompany their clients to the Social Security Administration to ensure that their clients are not denied non-work SSNs by caseworkers who do not fully understand the process and eligibility requirements involved in issuing non-working SSNs.

**1. NON-WORKING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

To obtain a non-work social security number, the applicant must be able to prove the following:

**A. DOCUMENTS TO PROVE AGE**

Exists	Brought in	
		Birth certificate <sup>1</sup> or hospital birth record recorded before age 5; or a religious record which shows that the date of birth and was recorded before age 5.
		Passport
		DHS issued document indicating age
		Other <sup>2</sup>

**B. TO PROVE IDENTITY**

Exists	Brought in	
		Driver's license
		U.S. State issued non-driver identity card
		School record
		Medical record
		Marriage record
		Passport
		DHS document

<sup>1</sup> SSN applicants must present their foreign birth certificate if they have it or can get it within 10 business days. If not, SSA can consider other documents, such as the individual's passport or a document issued by DHS, as evidence of the applicant's age. Social Security Numbers for Noncitizens: Does a noncitizen need a Social Security number?, SSA Publication No. 05-10096 (Aug. 2013), available at: <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10096.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Other evidence of age are: an original family bible or family record; school records; census records; a statement signed by the physician or midwife who was present at applicant's birth; insurance policies; a marriage record; an employment record; a delayed birth certificate, your child's birth certificate. 20 C.F.R. 404.716(b).

C. CURRENT IMMIGRANT STATUS

Exists	Brought in	
		DHS document

D. PROOF OF LEGAL REQUIREMENT

Exists	Brought in	
		Original letter or form letter from the government entity to document a valid nonwork reason – stating client is eligible to receive the benefits but is required to obtain a non-work social security number in order to receive these benefits.

**2. WORK AUTHORIZED SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

To receive a work eligible social security number the immigrant must show that she has been authorized to work in the United States by DHS. If the client does not have proof of work authorized immigration status, she may be eligible for a non-work social security number.

The applicant must be able show at least two original documents to prove the following:<sup>3</sup>

A. DOCUMENTS TO PROVE AGE

Exists	Brought in	
		Birth certificate <sup>4</sup> or hospital birth record recorded before age 5; or a religious record which shows that the date of birth and was recorded before age 5.
		Passport
		DHS issued document indicating age
		Other <sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> POMS RM 00203.001(C)(1), (D)(1), (D)(3). Applicants should take their completed SSN application and original documents to their local Social Security office. All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. Social Security offices cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. Social Security offices may use one document for two purposes. For example, they may use the applicant’s DHS work permit as proof of both his/her identity and work authorized immigration status. An applicant’s birth certificate and passport may serve as proof of age. Social Security Numbers for Noncitizens: Does a noncitizen need a Social Security number?, SSA Publication No. 05-10096 (Aug. 2013), available at: <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10096.pdf>. Refugees, parolees, asylees, and victims of a severe form of trafficking (VSFT) may submit only one document as evidence of age, identity, and lawful immigrant status. For additional information, see POMS [RM 10210.020D](#), in this section.

<sup>4</sup> SSN applicants must present their foreign birth certificate if they have it or can get it within 10 business days. If not, SSA can consider other documents, such as the individual’s passport or a document issued by DHS, as evidence of the applicant’s age. Social Security Numbers for Noncitizens: Does a noncitizen need a Social Security number?, SSA Publication No. 05-10096 (Aug. 2013), available at: <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10096.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Other evidence of age are: an original family bible or family record; school records; census records; a statement signed by the physician or midwife who was present at applicant’s birth; insurance policies; a marriage record; an employment record; a delayed birth certificate, your child's birth certificate. 20 C.F.R. 404.716(b).

**B. DOCUMENTS TO PROVE IDENTITY<sup>6</sup>**

Exists	Brought in	
		DHS document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form I-551 Permanent Resident Card</li> <li>• Form I-94</li> <li>• Form I-766, Employment Authorization card</li> <li>• Admission stamp</li> </ul>
		Passport
		Driver's license
		U.S. State issued non-driver identity card
		School record
		Medical record
		Health insurance or Medicaid card showing a photo or DOB
		Life insurance policy showing age or DOB
		Marriage record
		U.S. military record or identification card

**C. DOCUMENTS PROVING WORK AUTHORIZED IMMIGRATION STATUS**

Exists	Brought in	
		Proof of lawful permanent resident or conditional resident status (I-551) <sup>7</sup>
		Employment Authorization Document (I-766)
		Evidence that client was granted refugee status
		Evidence that client was granted asylum status
		Non-immigrant visa which authorizes client to work
		Evidence that client was granted temporary protective status
		Non immigrant student seeking on campus employment, part time off campus employment or curricular practical training

**3. OBTAINING A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER FOR A CHILD**

If a child is a United States Citizen, the Social Security Administration must issue a social security number to that child regardless of whether the parents are documented immigrants.

The applicant must be able to prove the following:

**A. PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP STATUS**

Exists	Brought in	
		U.S. Birth certificate
		U.S. Passport
		Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship

<sup>6</sup> RM 10210.420 Priority List of Acceptable Evidence of Identity Documents, available at: <https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0110210420>.

<sup>7</sup> RM 10211.025 Evidence of Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Status for an SSN Card, available at: <https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0110211025>.

B. PROOF OF AGE

Exists	Brought in	
		U.S. Birth certificate or U.S. hospital birth record recorded before age 5; or a religious record which shows that the date of birth and was recorded before age 5.
		U.S. Passport
		Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship

C. PROOF OF IDENTITY<sup>8</sup>

→FOR CHILDREN UNDER 6

Exists	Brought in	
		U.S. State issued non-driver identity card
		U.S. Passport
		Certificate of Naturalization
		Childcare facility, pre-school, or school record (for the current or prior year)
		Medical record showing age or DOB
		Health insurance or Medicaid card showing a photo or DOB
		Life insurance policy showing age or DOB
		Religious records showing age, DOB, or parent's name
		Final adoption decree

→FOR CHILDREN OVER AGE 6 THROUGH 17

Exists	Brought in	
		Driver's license
		U.S. State issued non-driver identity card
		Passport
		Certificate of Naturalization
		School record (for the current or prior year)
		Medical record showing age or DOB
		Health insurance or Medicaid card showing a photo or DOB
		Life insurance policy showing age or DOB
		Religious records showing age, DOB, or parent's name
		Final adoption decree

<sup>8</sup> RM 10210.420 Priority List of Acceptable Evidence of Identity Documents, available at: <https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/0110210420>.