

Social Security

Updating your U.S. Social Security records

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SS-5

Trump has issued an [executive order](#) stopping gender self-identification on all federal documents including Social Security. It likely will not be possible to change your social security gender marker in the near future, but you can still change your name. This page will be updated as soon as new information is available.

The [SS-5](#) form is used to apply for a new social security card. You will need to submit this form in-person to a social security office in order to update your social security records.

You need to update your SSA records in order to update other government documents such as your driver's license, and to avoid problems with banks and other institutions that require your social security number. After submitting this form, an updated social security card will be sent to your mailing address free of charge within 7 to 14 days.

- In item 1
 - Next to **Name to be shown on card**, write your new legal name (the one you're changing to)
 - Next to **Full name at birth**, write your name at birth, from before any name changes.
 - Next to **Other names used**, write any names you've used other than your new name and your name at birth. If those are the only names you've used, you can leave this blank.
- In item 2, write your current social security number. This will be on your social security card as well as your tax returns or any tax returns listing you as a dependent.
- In item 3, write the city and state where you were born. This should be on your birth certificate if you don't know it.
- In item 4, write your date of birth.
- In item 5, indicate your citizenship/permission-to-work status
- Items 6 and 7 are optional demographic questions.
- In item 8, select your gender as assigned at birth. Unfortunately, this can no longer be changed as of the issuance of Trump's [executive order](#) on January 20, 2025.
- In item 9, put your mother's birth name in field A. This should be on your birth certificate if you don't know it.
 - You do not need to provide your mother's social security number in field B if you're over 18.
- In item 10, put your father's name. This should be on your birth certificate if you don't know it.
 - You do not need to provide your father's social security number in field B if you're over 18.

- In item 11, indicate whether you've ever received a social security card before. If you're not sure, check "Don't Know"
- In item 12, write your name before the change.
- In item 13, write any previous date of birth. This is only required if you're changing your date of birth.
- In item 14, write the date when you're filling out the form.
- In item 15, write a phone number that you are reachable at.
- In item 16, write the address at which you'd like to receive your new social security card. This doesn't have to be your permanent address.
- Sign in item 17.
- In item 18, check **Self**.

Example

Here's what your form should look like once it's finished (Everything I added is in red for emphasis. Use black when you're filling your form out):

Application for a Social Security Card

1	NAME TO BE SHOWN ON CARD		First Jane	Full Middle Name Jamie	Last Doe	
	FULL NAME AT BIRTH IF OTHER THAN ABOVE		First John	Full Middle Name James	Last Doe	
	OTHER NAMES USED					
2	Social Security number previously assigned to the person listed in item 1			0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0 0
3	PLACE OF BIRTH (Do Not Abbreviate) City State or Foreign Country			Office Use Only FCI	4 DATE OF BIRTH MM/DD/YYYY	
			Los Angeles California			01/01/1970
5	CITIZENSHIP (Check One)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Alien Allowed To Work <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Alien Not Allowed To Work (See Instructions On Page 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (See Instructions On Page 3)			
6	ETHNICITY Are You Hispanic or Latino? (Your Response is Voluntary) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		7 RACE Select One or More (Your Response is Voluntary)	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Asian		
8	SEX		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female			
9	A. PARENT/ MOTHER'S NAME AT HER BIRTH		First Jessica	Full Middle Name	Last Dorothy	
	B. PARENT/ MOTHER'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (See instructions for 9B on Page 3)					<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10	A. PARENT/ FATHER'S NAME		First Jared	Full Middle Name	Last Doe	
	B. PARENT/ FATHER'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (See instructions for 10B on Page 3)					<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
11	Has the person listed in item 1 or anyone acting on his/her behalf ever filed for or received a Social Security number card before? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (If "yes" answer questions 12-13) <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know (If "don't know," skip to question 14.)					
12	Name shown on the most recent Social Security card issued for the person listed in item 1		First John	Full Middle Name James	Last Doe	
13	Enter any different date of birth if used on an earlier application for a card			MM/DD/YYYY		
14	TODAY'S DATE MM/DD/YYYY		15 DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER		123 4567890 Area Code Number	
16	MAILING ADDRESS (Do Not Abbreviate)		Street Address, Apt. No., PO Box, Rural Route No. 1000 Example Street			
			City Los Angeles		State/Foreign Country California	ZIP Code 90000
17	YOUR SIGNATURE <i>Jane Jamie Doe</i>		18 YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE PERSON IN ITEM 1 IS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Or Adoptive Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify			
DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE (FOR SSA USE ONLY)						
NPN			DOC	NTI	CAN	ITV
PBC			EVI	EVA	EVC	PRA
NWR			DNR		UNIT	
EVIDENCE SUBMITTED				SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF EMPLOYEE(S) REVIEWING EVIDENCE AND/OR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW		
				DATE		
				DCL		
				DATE		

Visiting the Social Security Administration

Once you fill out form SS-5, you will need to bring it to a social security office so that they can process the change.

What to bring

- Your filled-out and signed form SS-5
- A copy of your certified court order (this will be returned to you once they make a copy of it)
- One form of identification, such as an unexpired driver's license, state ID card, or U.S. passport.
- If you've never received a social security number before, one proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a U.S. birth certificate or U.S. passport.

What not to bring

You can get the current list of prohibited items [here](#). These include:

- Firearms and projectile weapons
- Sharp tools or implements
- Club-like items and striking devices
- Explosives or combustible chemical compounds and mixtures
- Disabling or dangerous chemicals
- Drugs (including cannabis, even with prescription)

Security Screening

When you enter a Social Security office, you'll have to undergo security screening. A guard will ask why you're there, and then explain the screening procedure. They'll ask you to put all your possessions into a container and inform them of any metal inside your body, such as pacemakers, joint replacements, etc. Then, a metal detector wand will be used to make sure you don't have any metallic objects on you. If the wand indicates, further screening will be performed in the form of a pat-down.

Check-in

Once you're through security screening, you can check in at a kiosk, which will ask you some questions about why you're there, what your social security number is if you have one, and whether you made an appointment. Once you've checked in, the kiosk will print a ticket with a number at the top.

There's a screen in the room that displays the ticket numbers currently being served. Once your number is called, it will flash in red at the top of the screen along with the window number you should go to. If you don't show up when your number is called, they will announce it again over a speaker.

When you go to the window, the officer will ask you for your ticket and ID immediately, so have those ready.