

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." However, 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.

Why Should I Get A 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 taxpayer identification number, regardless of age. Getting a Social Security number is just the beginning of the valuable protection and benefits your child may be eligible for in the future.

Are There Other Advantages?

Young children need Social Security numbers for many reasons, in addition to the tax reason. Your child needs a number if you plan to:

- open a bank account;
- buy savings bonds;
- get medical coverage; or
- apply for some kind of government services for your child.

How Do I Apply?

It's easy to apply at birth. When you give information for your baby's birth certificate, you will be asked if you want to apply for a Social Security Number for your baby. If you say "yes", we'll assign your baby a number and mail the Social Security card directly to you, usually within 5 weeks.

Parents' Social Security numbers are requested. If you do not know the number or do not have a number, you may leave this blank. Your child will still be issued a number. Parent's immigration status is **not** an issue.

Have any questions?

If you want more information, haven't received your baby's card or for any other Social Security issues you should contact your local Social Security office or the national 800# at 1-800-772-1213.

