

Selective Service System

WHO MUST REGISTER

<https://www.sss.gov/regist%20information.htm>

Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male immigrants living in the U.S., who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service. It's important to know that even though he is registered, a man will not automatically be inducted into the military. In a crisis requiring a draft, men would be called in sequence determined by random lottery number and year of birth. Then, they would be examined for mental, physical and moral fitness by the military before being deferred or exempted from military service or inducted into the Armed Forces.

A [chart](#) of who must register is also available.

NON-CITIZENS

Some non-citizens are required to register. Others are not. Non-citizens who are not required to register with Selective Service include men who are in the U.S. on student or visitor visas, and men who are part of a diplomatic or trade mission and their families. Almost all other male non-citizens are required to register, including undocumented immigrants, legal permanent residents, and refugees. The general rule is that if a male non-citizen takes up residency in the U.S. before his 26th birthday, he must register with Selective Service. For a more detailed list of which non-citizens must register, see [Who Must Register - Chart](#).

The Selective Service System has not now, or in the past, collected or shared any information which would indicate a man's immigration status, either documented or undocumented. The Selective Service System has no authority to collect such information, has no use for it, and it is irrelevant to the registration requirement. Consequently, there is no immigration data to share with anyone.

DUAL NATIONALS

Dual nationals of the U.S. and another country are required to register, regardless of where they live, because they are U.S. nationals.

See also [Immigrants and Dual Nationals - Liability for Service](#)

RESIDENTS OF PUERTO RICO, GUAM, VIRGIN ISLANDS, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA, AMERICAN SAMOA, AND PALAU

Residents of Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands are U.S. citizens. Citizens of American Samoa are nationals and must register when they are habitual residents in the United States

or reside in the U.S. for at least one year. Habitual residence is presumed and registration is required whenever a national or a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau, resides in the United States for more than one year in any status, except as a student who entered the U.S. for the purpose of full time studies as long as such person maintains that status or employee of the government of his homeland.

HOSPITALIZED OR INCARCERATED MEN

Young men in hospitals, mental institutions, or prisons do not have to register while they are committed. However, they must register within 30 days after being released if they have not yet reached their 26th birthday.

DISABLED MEN

Disabled men who live at home must register with Selective Service if they can reasonably leave their homes and move about independently. A friend or relative may help a disabled man fill out the registration form if he can't do it himself.

Men with disabilities that would disqualify them from military service still must register with Selective Service. Selective Service does not presently have authority to classify men, so even men with obvious handicaps must register now, and if needed, classifications would be determined later.

FULL-TIME MILITARY EXEMPTED FROM REQUIREMENT* (See *NOTE below)

Young men serving in the military on full-time active duty do not have to register, if serving continuously from age 18 to age 26. Those attending the service academies do not have to register. However, if a young man joins the military after turning 18 or leaves the military before turning 26, he must register.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES* (See *NOTE below)

Members of the Reserve and National Guard not on full-time active duty must register.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Men who would be classified as [Conscientious Objectors](#) if they were drafted must also register with Selective Service. If a draft begins and they are called, they would have the opportunity to file a claim for exemption from military service based upon their religious or moral objection to war.

SEX GENDER CHANGE / TRANSEXUAL

Individuals who are born female and have a sex change are not required to register. U.S. citizens or immigrants who are born male and have a sex change are still required to register.

***NOTE:** If a man failed to register with Selective Service, Section 12(g) of the Military Selective Service Act allows non-registrants to receive benefits under specific conditions. As a veteran, or part-time National Guard or Reservist, the man satisfies those conditions with his DD Form 214 showing the dates of his military service, or a current military ID card if still on active duty or a member of the National Guard and Reserves. These documents serve as evidence that the man's failure to register was not knowing and willful. Therefore, men who served on full-time active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces should not be denied student financial aid, loans, or grants; vocational training under WIA; government employment; and security clearances, on the basis of their failure to register with Selective Service. As long as the man has proof of his active duty military service, such as his DD 214, or current military ID card if still on active duty or a member of the National Guard or Reserves, his subsequent failure to register should not be a bar to any benefits or programs, contingent upon registration compliance, for which he is otherwise qualified.

WHEN TO REGISTER <https://www.sss.gov/when.htm>

The law requires virtually all male U.S. citizens (regardless of where they live), and male immigrants residing in the U.S. (permanent resident aliens), to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Therefore, to be in full compliance with the law, a man turning 18 is required to register during the period of time beginning 30 days before, until 30 days after his 18th birthday...a 60-day window.

Late registrations are accepted, but not once a man reaches age 26. Men who do not register within the 60-day window are technically in violation of the law and should register as soon as possible.

A male non-citizen who first takes up permanent residence in the U.S. when he is at least 18 years old, but not yet 26 years old, must register within 30 days of becoming a resident. If he first enters the U.S. as a resident when he is 26 years old or older, he does not register with Selective Service because he is too old to register. Male non-citizens in the U.S. temporarily (valid student or visitor visa, diplomatic corps, etc.) do not register.

Early Submission: It is now possible for a man to submit registration information early, as long he is **at least 17 years and 3 months old**. Selective Service will keep his information on file and process it automatically later in the year, when the man is within 30 days of reaching his 18th birthday. An acknowledgment card will be mailed to the man when his registration is processed. To submit early registration information, follow the same procedures as men who are 18 through 25 years old, listed below.

Here are some places to register:

REGISTER ONLINE

Young men may now register online with Selective Service.

AT THE POST OFFICE

Selective Service "mail-back" registration forms are available at any Post Office. A man can fill it out, sign it, affix postage, and mail it to Selective Service, without the involvement of the postal clerk. Men living overseas may register at any U.S. Embassy or consular office.

BY MAIL

A young man may also register by filling out a Reminder Mailback Card. Selective Service sends this card to many young men around the time they turn 18. Mailback cards are also available at some post offices. A man can fill out the card at home and mail it directly to Selective Service. Forms will be sent to: Selective Service System, Registration Information Office, P.O. Box 94638, Palatine, IL 60094-4638.

CHECK BOX

Another way a young man can register is to check a box on the application form for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA form). A man can check "Yes" on the Selective Service Box, and the Department of Education will furnish Selective Service with the information to register the man.

AT THEIR HIGH SCHOOL

More than half the high schools in the Nation have a staff member or teacher appointed as a [Selective Service Registrar](#). These individuals help register male high school students.

HOW TO REGISTER

<https://www.sss.gov/FSregist.htm>

The easiest and fastest way for a man to register is to [register online](#). Or a man can fill out a registration form and send it to the Selective Service System. The form asks for the young man's full name, address, date of birth, and Social Security Number (if he has one). On a form that is sent in, his signature is also required.

Here are some places to register:

REGISTER ONLINE

Young men may now register online with Selective Service: www.sss.gov

AT THE POST OFFICE

Selective Service "mail-back" registration forms are available at any U.S. Post Office. A man can fill it out, sign (leaving the space for his Social Security Number blank, if he has not yet obtained one*), affix postage, and mail it to Selective Service, without the involvement of the postal clerk. Men living overseas may register at any U.S. Embassy or consular office.

*Provide your Social Security Number to the Selective Service when you do obtain one.

CHECK BOX

Another way a young man can register is to check a box on the application form for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA form). A man can check "Register Me" on Box #22 of that form, and the Department of Education will furnish Selective Service with the information to register the man.

AT THEIR HIGH SCHOOL

More than half the high schools in the nation have a staff member or teacher appointed as a [Selective Service Registrar](#). These individuals help register male high school students.

Proof of Registration & Change of Address <https://www.sss.gov/ack.htm>

A registration acknowledgment card will arrive in the mail about 30 to 90 days after a man sends in his registration card. Keep this document in a safe place as proof of registration.

If you have registered using the on-line registration web site at <https://www.sss.gov>, an acknowledgment card will be sent to you within two weeks.

If you do not receive an acknowledgment card within 90 days of registering, or if you require a replacement acknowledgment card, please call Selective Service at 1-847-688-6888. Your call will be answered by an automated voice processing system. Listen carefully to the directions, and select the option for receiving your own Selective Service number.

If you move, let us know!

After he registers, a man is required to notify Selective Service within ten days of any changes to any of the information he provided on his registration card, like a change of address. He must report changes until January 1 of the year he turns 26. He may do this by using the on-line "change of address" page on this Web Site ([Click Here](#)), or by completing a change of address form (SSS Form 2) at the post office, or by calling 1-847-688-6888.