

 Council on Licensing, Enforcement and Regulation


DENVER
2009 Annual Conference
September 10 - 12

Identification of
Fraudulent SSNs and
Immigration Documents

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Office of Investigations
Colorado Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Promoting Regulatory Excellence

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Identifying Fraudulent SSNs and Immigration
Documents



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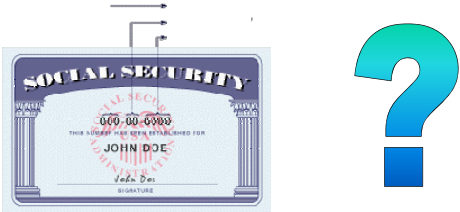
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Social Security Numbers can reveal a lot of
information:

- Each SSN is a unique identifier assigned to only one individual. When someone dies, their SSN is not reassigned. It becomes part of the Social Security Death Index.
- There are rare incidents where someone is assigned a new (second) SSN, such as victims of identity theft and domestic violence, but this does not often happen.

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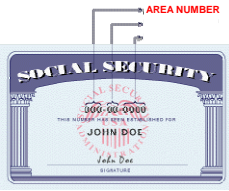
Social Security Numbers are made up of three parts totaling nine digits:



Yes, the numbers on your Social Security card actually mean something!

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Area numbers (AAA-GG-SSSS)

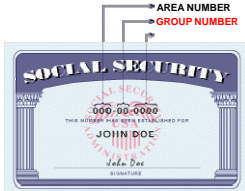


The **Area** designates the state where one applies, or resides, at the time of application. Some states have more than one group of numbers allotted due to exhausting the original assignment numbers. All of the original assignments were less than 585 (except for the 700-729 railroad worker series). Area numbers of **000** were **NEVER assigned** and according to the SSA, **NEVER WILL BE**.

Between 1975 and 1979, the AREA & GROUP numbers 568-30 through 568-58 were assigned to Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian refugees in California, as were numbers with the GROUPS 574 (Alaska), 580 (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), and 586 (Pacific territories).

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GROUP Numbers (AAA-GG-SSSS)



The GROUP numbers designate the order in which SSN numbers are issued in a certain AREA. They have no geographic designation, but can help determine whether a number has been assigned yet.

GROUP numbers are the two middle digits, which range from 01 through 99. **00 IS NEVER USED**.

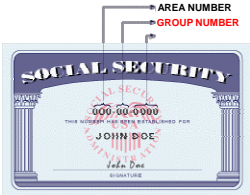
GROUP numbers issued first consist of the odd numbers from 01 through 09, then even numbers from 10 through 98. After all the numbers in group 98 of a specific area have been issued, the even groups 02 through 08 are used, followed by odd groups 11 through 99.

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GROUP Numbers (AAA-GG-SSSS) Cont.

You can combine the "Highest Group Issued" information with the known order of issuance to determine if a SSN is fraudulent, or valid.

For Example:
If the highest GROUP for AREA 624 is 84, and the number you're checking has a GROUP number of 06, the number is fraudulent, because even numbers between 02 and 08 have not been issued yet for the AREA.

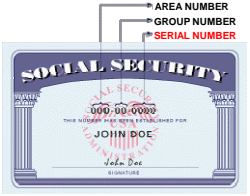



Highest group issued (released once each month) can be found at :
<http://www.ssa.gov/employer/highgroup.txt>

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Serial Numbers (AAA-GG-SSSS)

The last four digits of a SSN are the SERIAL numbers and are consecutively assigned from 0001 through 9999.




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Social Security Card Security Features

First, check the revision date located on the reverse side of the lower left-hand corner. If the revision date of the card is 10-83 or thereafter, a **genuine** Social Security card will contain the following security features:

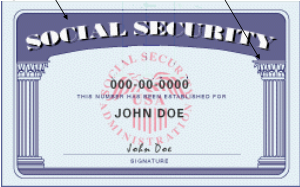
- Intaglio printing
- Microline Printing
- Perforated Edges
- Planchettes
- Computer printing and centered

This card is the official verification of your Social Security number. Please sign it right away. Keep it in a safe place. Improper use of this card or number by anyone is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both. This card belongs to the Social Security Administration and you must return it if we ask for it. If you find a card that isn't yours, please return it to: Social Security Administration, P.O. Box 17085, Baltimore, MD 21225. For any other Social Security business/information, contact your local Social Security office. If you write to the above address for any business other than returning a found card, it will take longer for us to answer your letter. Social Security Administration Form SSA-3060 (1-94) (formerly OA-702) C 8 3 7 8 6 3 1 4

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Intaglio Printing:

Intaglio printing simply refers to a raised surface on the face of the card. The words "Social Security" and the vertical columns are the most readily felt.




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Microline Printing:


The signature line of a **genuine** Social Security card is comprised of the words "SOCIALSECURITYADMINISTRATION" in tiny, uniform letters known as microprinting. If the signature line is solid, the card can be easily identified as a counterfeit. Inconsistent letter formations and lack of clarity would also indicate forgery. You will need a magnifying glass to exam for the presence of microprinting.

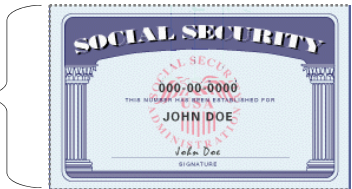



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FUN FACT: IT IS ILLEGAL TO LAMINATE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

Perforated edges:

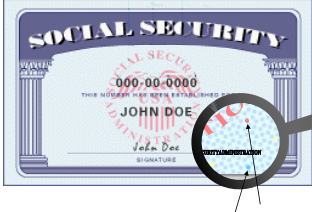
Perforations will appear on **three** sides of the card (top, bottom and left) of all **genuine** Social Security cards.  Caution: Some people trim their cards to fit in their wallets. Be sure to also check for the presence of intaglio and microline printing if the perforations are absent.


Perforated 

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Planchettes:

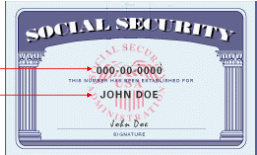
Planchettes are small paper "dots" that are randomly placed into the paper during the manufacturing of the Social Security card paper. They are yellow, blue and/or pink. The color may vary since the dots are a part of the paper, not just printed on top of the paper. If you find two Social Security cards with the same pattern of planchettes, this would indicate that the cards are not only counterfeit, but also likely to have been produced by the same source.




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Computer printing and centered:

On a **genuine** Social Security Card, the number and the person's name will be centered. Also, the name and Social Security Number on a **genuine** Social Security card are computer generated; meaning that the letters in the name will appear "fuzzy" and the dashes separating the AREA-GROUP-SERIES will be "thick." **Crisp letters and thin dashes are usually the first indication that the card may be fraudulent.**

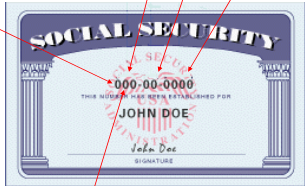


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Invalid or Impossible SSNs

Any of the three fields (AREA, GROUP or SERIAL) are composed of all zeros.

AREA Number of "666"




Any AREA number above 772 (currently).

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Test your Knowledge
Genuine or Counterfeit?


Genuine

Dashes are "thicker"



Name is centered

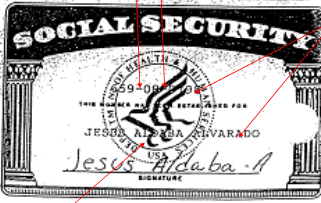
This image shows a genuine Social Security card. The card is for Jaime Herrera, with Social Security number 456-12-3456. The card features the Social Security Administration seal and the signature of Jaime Herrera. Red arrows point to the thick dashes in the number and the centered name.

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Genuine or Counterfeit?

Counterfeit


Thin dashes



Font size

Name not centered


This image shows a counterfeit Social Security card. The card is for Jesus Alvarado, with Social Security number 99-00-1122. The card features the Social Security Administration seal and the signature of Jesus Alvarado. Red arrows point to the thin dashes in the number, the font size of the text, and the name which is not centered.

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Genuine or Counterfeit?

Counterfeit

Type written



Name and number not centered

This image shows a counterfeit Social Security card. The card is for Rigoberto Pena, with Social Security number 1234-56-7890. The card features the Social Security Administration seal and the signature of Rigoberto Pena. Red arrows point to the type-written text, the name and number which are not centered, and the signature.

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New Social Security Card Features

In response to a requirement of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, as of April of 2007, social security cards will have the date they were issued directly below the signature line.



As of October 2007, the SSA implemented more changes to the social security card to supplement the April 2007 changes.

Including: Two line names


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New Social Security Card Features cont.


The October 2007 version of the social security card includes additional security features:




- Color shifting inks added to the face of the card; very recognizable since it is used in currency.
- A unique non-repeating spiral design, replacing the existing marblized pattern, as well as more microline printing. The new pattern will be the same or a very similar color to the current background and will continue to be erasable.
- A latent image on the face of the card, visible only when the document is viewed at specific angles.

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IMPORTANT





All prior versions of the SSN card are still valid and may continue to be used. SSA will inform employer groups about these changes to the SSN card using print material and presentations to employers' groups. If you receive inquiries, reassure the public that their SSN card is still valid.

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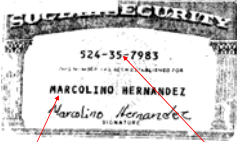
Bottom Line:

- Always obtain the original Social Security Card.
- Take a moment to observe the card for fraudulent indicators
 - Type/"crisp" written letters and dashes.
 - Position and spacing of name.



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Examples of fraudulent documents




Name not centered


Dashes between area-group-series are thin, not thick


Examples of fraudulent documents obtained during Division of Registrations investigations.

Discovered when a SSN was input into DLS and that SSN was already in the system.

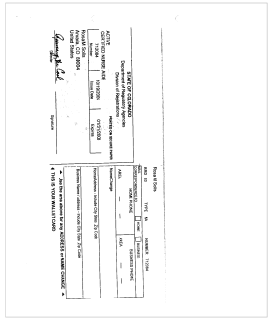
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This female used a real person's name, date of birth and social security number to get her own set of forged documents, and then used those forged documents to get a CNA license with the Division of Registrations.




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Authentic CNA registration card obtained by fraudulent means



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Visas, Permanent Resident Alien cards and other documents



I-551 cards are given to those individuals who have applied and been granted permission to reside permanently in the United States.

Permanent residents are issued an Alien Registration card known as a "green card." (I-551)

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I-551 Stamp



"IMMIGRANT VISA"

"UPON ENDORSEMENT SERVES AS TEMPORARY I-551 EVIDENCING PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR 1 YEAR"

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Non-immigrant visas




Given to individuals who intend to come to the U.S. for a temporary period of time

- Students
- Temporary workers
- Participants in international cultural programs
- Entertainers and athletes
- Exchange visitors and diplomats
- Foreign government representatives
- Investors and religious workers
- Tourists and short term business people

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Temporary Resident Cards I-688



Was issued to aliens that were granted temporary resident status. This card is no longer used.

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I-94

The arrival/departure card for non-immigrants
The information shown on the card includes:





**Date of entry
Visa type
Departure date**

Alone, does not guarantee work authorization.


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Employment Authorization Document (EAD) I-766

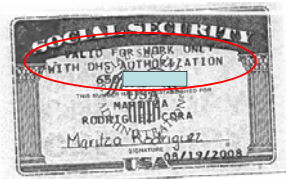


Expiration date

Form I-766 (January 1997) Form I-766 (May 2004)


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SSN Card issued on work authorization cards (I-766), and with I-94's




VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH DHS AUTHORIZATION

MARIZA RODRIGUEZ
Mariza Rodriguez
USA 08/19/2008

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In order to be here as a non-immigrant authorized to work, you must have ALL FOUR:




APPROVED APPROVED An I-94

Passport

APPROVED Form I-766 APPROVED

A valid visa

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Final Points

Know your Documents:

1. I-551 Cards
2. Passports
3. Visas
4. The I-94

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Final Points Cont.

7. Employment Authorization cards
8. SSN cards

NOTE: It is always best to visualize the original document; copies will not tell you everything you need to know.

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Look for simple indicators.

1. Does the paper or card "look" right?
 - Clarity of picture?
 - Correct kind of Type?
 - Does it have a real hologram?
 - Does it have real security features?
2. Does the paper or card "feel" right?

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Simple indicators cont.

- Is the picture printed on the card, or paper, or is the picture pasted on top?
- Is it actually a magnetic strip, or just a printed on strip?
- Card too thick/thin?
- "Bank note" type paper or regular paper?

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Simple indicators cont.

3. Does the paper or card have the correct information?

- Does it have an expiration date?
- Is the name in the proper order?
- Is the date in the proper sequence e.g., dd/mm/yyyy vs. mm/dd/yyyy?
- Is it what it purports to be?

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Simple indicators cont.


- Do you have everything that would be required to prove lawful presence and authorization to work, e.g., passport, visa, I-94 and I-766?


Most of all, trust your instincts and test your assumptions.

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Other systems available for verifying documents

- A (alien) numbers and I-94 numbers can be run through the SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements) program database. To find information on SAVE program and access to sign up:



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SAVE Program Information cont.


- Go to: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>
- On top tabs, click on "About USCIS"
- Then go to "Offices and Programs" near bottom of page and click on "About Save Program"
- On that page, look towards top right under "Related Links" and click on "SAVE Main Page"
- On left there will be various links that explain transaction charges, signing up for the program, access methods, verification process etc (I have handouts of all those pages available).

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Social Security Administration Online Business Services


To register for access to SSA's online SSN verification service:

<http://www.ssa.gov/bso/bsowelcome.htm>


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U.S. Identification Manual and I.D. Checking Guides

- www.usidentificationmanual.com
 - I.D. Checking Guides -- provides valid driver's license formats for 50 states driver's licenses and 10 Canadian provinces
 - U.S. Identification Manual – provides examples of State, Canadian, and Territorial driver's licenses and identification cards; state vehicle registrations and plates; federal identification; immigration documents; social security cards; credit cards and travelers cheques

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Questions



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