

**SENSITIVE - NOT TO BE SHARED WITH PUBLIC**

Outline

Actions ▾



**Effective Dates:** 01/17/2024 - Present ([View History](#))

## **RM 10211.500 Evidence for an SSN Card for an Undocumented Alien**

Presume aliens in the U.S. are undocumented if they cannot submit evidence of the lawful alien status or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) granted work authorization, unless the policy for specific alien groups in [RM 10211.075](#) applies.

**NOTE :** During the interview with the applicant, do not use the term "illegal" when referring to undocumented aliens.

### **A. FO may assign an SSN to an undocumented alien with a valid non-work reason**

Assign a non-work SSN to an undocumented alien (sometimes called illegal aliens) if they provide documentation of entitlement to a federally funded benefit that requires an SSN by Federal statute or regulation, as a condition to receive that benefit. For information on valid non-work reasons and required documentation, see [RM 10211.600](#) .

**NOTE:** Do not accept proof of filing an application for the benefit as a valid non-work reason. The individual must meet all the requirements to receive the benefit or service except for the SSN.

For information on SSNAP inputs, see [RM 10211.500D](#) in this section.

### **B. FO may not assign an SSN to an undocumented alien**

Do not process an application for an original SSN for an undocumented alien who:

- will be denied benefits or payments (Title II, Title XVI (SSI), TANF, Medicaid, Food Stamps);

**NOTE:** For information on lawful presence payment provisions for Title II, see [RS 0020](#) .

- is an SSI ineligible spouse, parent, or child;
- is appointed representative payee for a Title II or Title XVI beneficiary;
- is eligible only for emergency services under Medicaid; or  
**NOTE:** Contact your local Medicaid agency to determine if the applicant qualifies for Medicaid under the provision that allows only emergency benefits to nonqualified aliens.
- alleges a need for an SSN for tax or similar purposes.  
**NOTE:** IRS assigns taxpayer identification numbers (TIN) to undocumented alien taxpayers to process their tax returns.

#### **C. Alien alleges legal status without documentation and is not eligible for a non-work SSN**

If an alien alleges lawful alien status but has no documentation, provide the applicant with written notice, using Form SSA-L670 (Request for Evidence in Support of an SSN Application—Foreign-Born Applicant), explaining why you cannot process their SSN application. Advise the alien to contact DHS for a determination of legal status and to request documentation.

**EXCEPTION:** Do not refer the alien to DHS when the policy for specific alien groups in [RM 10211.075](#) applies.

If the alien insists that their application be processed, issue Form SSA-L676, Refusal to Process SSN Application.

**NOTE:** Permanent residence under color-of-law (PRUCOL) status for Title XVI purposes does not give an applicant employment authorization or legalize admission to the U.S. Thus, no SSNs, including non-work SSNs, can be assigned on the basis of "color of law," unless the applicant has established entitlement to SSI benefits. For information on PRUCOL, see [SI 00501.420](#). For information on processing numident updates, see [RM 10211.505](#).

#### **D. FO assigns an SSN to an undocumented alien**

If an undocumented alien can be assigned an SSN based on a valid non-work reason, **do not** process an original SSN application unless the applicant provides documentation that establishes that an SSN is required as a condition of receiving a federally funded benefit to which the applicant has established entitlement (see [RM 10211.500A](#) in this section). For information on valid reasons for assigning an SSN for a non-work purpose, see [RM 10211.610](#).

Include the following in the SSNAP application for an original SSN:

- **Number Holder Information screen:**

Field: Citizenship

Select "Other";

- **Proof of Legal Alien Status screen:**

Field: Non-work Reason

Select the appropriate valid non-work reason.

**NOTE :** Caution the alien that the SSN does not authorize them to work and if they do work, and earnings are reported for that SSN, DHS may be notified.

## Section History

▼ [Prior Versions of Section](#)



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