



SOCIAL SECURITY

Refer to:
[REDACTED]

August 9, 2017

[REDACTED] Reyes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] Reyes:

This letter is in response to your February 24, 2017 Internet Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the following sections of the Social Security Act:

1. Rules showing that a Social Security number (SSN) is required to work; and
2. Rules showing that parents are required to have an SSN for their baby/children.

The Social Security Act does not require a person to have an SSN to live or work in the United States, nor does the Social Security Act require a parent to get SSNs for his or her children. However, without an SSN, our agency cannot properly credit an individual's earnings. Accurate earnings records are vitally important to the administration of Social Security programs; we determine eligibility for, and the amount of, Social Security benefits based on a person's earnings. Moreover, although the Social Security Act does not require a person to have an SSN, other laws do require the SSN for specific purposes. We are unable to provide you with information about, or specific citations to, other agencies' laws, penalties, or requirements related to an SSN.

The FOIA does not require an agency to respond to questions or perform research. See *Zemansky v. United States E.P.A.*, 767 F.2d 569 (9th Cir. 1985) and *Poll v. Office of Special Counsel*, 208 F.3d, n.2 (10th Cir. 1999).

If you have questions, or would like further assistance with your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov; by phone at 410-965-1727, by choosing Option 2; or facsimile at 410-966-0869.

You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration for dispute resolution services. OGIS is an entity outside of the Social Security Administration that offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you disagree with this decision, you may file a written appeal with the Executive Director for the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Social Security Administration, 617 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted to FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov within 90 days of the date of our response to your initial request. Please mark the envelope or subject line with "Freedom of Information Appeal."

Sincerely,



Monica Chyn
Acting Freedom of Information Officer