

MEN CANNOT REGISTER AFTER REACHING AGE 26

According to law, a man must register with Selective Service within 30 days of his 18th birthday. Selective Service will accept late registrations but not after a man has reached age 26.

Some men may have failed to register during the time they were eligible to do so and may now find they are ineligible for certain benefits.

See [What happens if I don't register?](#)

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU DID NOT REGISTER AND ARE NOW 26 OR OLDER?

If you have passed your 26th birthday and are now being denied eligibility for Federal student financial aid, Federal job training, or Federal employment, or are having difficulty obtaining U.S. citizenship because you failed to register, you have the following recourse available to you: Explain to the official handling your case (for example, a student financial aid officer) the reasons for your failure to register with Selective Service. **A non-registrant may not be denied any benefit if he can “show by a preponderance of evidence” that his failure to register was not knowing and willful. Offer as much evidence supporting your case, and as much detail, as possible.**

HOW TO GET AN OFFICIAL SELECTIVE SERVICE RESPONSE SAYING YOU WERE OR WERE NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER

If you did not register with Selective Service, and are now age 26 or older, you may be ineligible for certain Federal or state programs and benefits, including U.S. citizenship, if you are an immigrant male. Some agencies may ask you to provide an official response from the Selective Service indicating if you were or were not required to register. To receive such a letter from the Selective Service System, please call 1-847-688-6888. Your call will be answered by an automated voice processing system. Please refrain from pressing any numbers, and an operator will soon come on the line to assist you.

(continued)



**The Selective Service System
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
National Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2425**

**Tel. 703-605-4100
FAX 703-605-4106
e-mail: information@sss.gov
Web: <http://www.sss.gov>**

February 19, 2004

You may also send a written request to the Selective Service System at P.O. Box 94638, Palatine, IL 60094-4638. Ask for a “**status information**” letter. You will have to describe, in detail, the circumstances you believe prevented you from registering and provide copies of documents showing any periods when you were hospitalized, institutionalized, or incarcerated occurring between your 18th and 26th birthdays. If you are a non-citizen, you may be required to provide documents that show when you entered the United States. Please include your name, Social Security Number, date of birth, and return address.

For your convenience, you can download the [Request for Status Information Letter](#) form along with the [directions for completing this form](#). Both documents are in PDF format.

FINAL DECISION

The benefit agency official handling your case, not the Selective Service, will determine whether you have shown that your failure to register was not a knowing and willful failure to register. The final decision regarding your eligibility for the benefit that you seek will be made by the agency granting the benefit (for example, for student financial aid, this would be the Department of Education). In some agencies, an appeals process is available.

* Men born from March 29, 1957 to December 31, 1959 were never required to register because the registration program was not in operation at the time they turned 18. The requirement to register was reinstated in 1980 and applies to all men born on or after January 1, 1960.

INSTRUCTIONS

For filling out the “Request for Status Information Letter”

SECTION 1:

- Name: you must provide your complete name, and any other names you have ever used. If you have more than one last name, you must provide both names.
- Address: you must include your complete mailing address. Forms received without a mailing address will not be processed.
- Social Security Account Number: If you have a Social Security Account Number, you must provide it. Also, if you have ever used a different Social Security Account Number, provide that as well.
- Date of Birth: This form is only for men born after December 31, 1959, who are 26 years old or older. You must provide your complete date of birth.
- Daytime Telephone Number: If possible, provide a telephone number where you can be reached during the day, in case we need to contact you.
- E-mail Address: If possible, provide your e-mail address in case we need to contact you.

SECTION 2:

This section is for explaining and documenting why you did not register with Selective Service. This section consists of five different parts. You must complete and submit documentation for any and all parts that apply to you.

- Military: To obtain proof of military service, you may call the Veterans Administration at (800) 827-1000, or write to: National Personnel Records Center, GSA, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63132.
- Incarcerated, institutionalized, hospitalized, or confined to home: for each instance, provide type of confinement, dates of confinement, and supporting documentation.

NON CITIZEN / ALIEN:

- If you entered the United States for the first time after your 26th birthday, you must provide documentation to support your claim. Valid documentation includes: entry stamp in your passport, I-94 with entry stamp on it, or a letter from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) indicating the date you entered the United States. If you entered the United States illegally after your 26th birthday, you must provide proof that you were not living in the United States from age 18 to age 26. Please note: your Resident Alien Card (Green Card) is not valid as proof of entry to the United States.
- If you entered the United States as a valid non-immigrant alien, and remained in that status to your 26th birthday, you must provide documentation to support your claim. For example, if you entered the United States as an F-1 Student, and remained in that status until your 26th birthday, you would need to provide documentation indicating that you were admitted on an F-1 visa and attended school full-time as required. (Acceptable documents for this situation include copies of your I-20s or a letter from the school you attended indicating your full time attendance as a non-immigrant alien). The same thing applies for all non-immigrant statuses. You must explain, if at any point, you violated the terms of your visa, or overstayed your visa and became an undocumented alien.

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- You should provide as much information as possible. We will use the information you provide to determine your registration status.
- Transsexual: For individuals who have had a sex change. You must indicate what gender you were born as, and attach documentation which indicates this as well.
- Reason why you failed to register with Selective Service upon reaching age 18 and before reaching age 26: Provide a written explanation for not registering with Selective Service.

SECTION

3:

Sign and date the letter. Return this letter to the address listed with copies of requested documents, and anything else you may wish to include. **Do not send original documents, as they will not be returned.** You should retain a copy of all documents and correspondence submitted.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- This form is designed to be printed for use, and cannot be completed on line. After printing, complete the form, attach appropriate documentation, and mail to: Selective Service System, ATTN: SIL, PO Box 94638, Palatine, IL 60094-4638.
- This form is for use only by men born after December 31, 1959, who are not registered and are now 26 years old or older.
- This form is not a registration form, and by submitting it, you will not be registered.
- If you feel that you have already registered, verify your registration on our website (www.sss.gov), or call our Registration Information Office at (847) 688-6888 to obtain your Selective Service number.
- E-mail or fax transmissions of this form **will not** be accepted.
- We will issue a Status Information Letter based on the information you provide. This letter will clarify your status with Selective Service.
- If you are being denied a right, benefit, or privilege because you are not registered, submit a copy of your Status Information Letter and an explanation for your failure to register, to the Agency administering the right, benefit, or privilege. That Agency will make the final determination regarding your eligibility. The Selective Service System does not determine your eligibility for any right, benefit, or privilege.

Request for Status Information Letter

I am requesting a Status Information Letter. I am a male who is not registered with Selective Service. I am now twenty six years old or older, and was born after December 31, 1959.

Section 1:

Name _____
First Middle Last

List any other names used _____
Include any multiple last names

Current mailing address _____
Street address

City State Zip code

Social Security Account Number _____

Date of Birth _____
Month / day / year

Daytime Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Section 2:

MILITARY:

List dates of active duty service: _____ to _____

List dates of reserve duty service: _____ to _____

List dates of military school service: _____ to _____

Military school attended: _____

Attach **copy** of DD214 (or DD Form 4 if still on active duty)

INCARCERATED, INSTITUTIONALIZED, HOSPITALIZED, OR CONFINED TO HOME:

List dates during which you were (circle appropriate situation) incarcerated, institutionalized, hospitalized, or confined to home. For multiple dates, list all.

_____ to _____, _____ to _____, _____ to _____

Attach proof of each instance

NON CITIZEN / ALIEN:

Date you entered the United States for the first time: _____

month / day / year

INS status at time of entry: _____ List all alien status(es) held since entering the country, and give dates: (attach separate sheet if necessary)

_____ to _____ USCIS Status: _____

_____ to _____ USCIS Status: _____

_____ to _____ USCIS Status: _____

_____ to _____ USCIS Status: _____

Attach **copies** of supporting documentation (see information sheet for detailed instructions regarding this).

TRANSSEXUAL:

At birth my gender was: _____

Attach copy of birth certificate

REASON WHY YOU FAILED TO REGISTER WITH SELECTIVE SERVICE UPON REACHING AGE 18 AND BEFORE REACHING AGE 26:

Section 3:

Sign and date, then send this letter, together with **copies** of required documents and whatever other supporting information you may wish to include to :

Selective Service System
ATTN: SIL
PO Box 94638
Palatine, IL 60094-4638

signature

date

No action can be taken until we receive all of the information/documentation needed. You should retain a copy of all documents and correspondence submitted to us. You should receive a response within 4 to 6 weeks.