

United States Selective Service System

What is the Selective Service System?

The United States Selective Service System (SSS) is an independent federal agency that exists to serve the emergency manpower needs of the U.S. Military, by conscripting untrained manpower or personnel with professional health care skills, in a national crisis.

Who must register for Selective Service?

Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male foreign nationals living in the U.S., who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service. This includes lawful permanent residents and undocumented males but does not include foreign nationals who are present in the United States on “nonimmigrant” visas (e.g., students, tourists, diplomats, etc.). Visit www.sss.gov to see who is exempt from registration requirements.

Must undocumented male foreign nationals register for Selective Service?

Yes. If you are a man who is at least 18-years-old and who has not yet reached his 26 birthday and you are living in the U.S., then you must register with Selective Service. You do not need a Social Security number to register. If you do not have a valid Social Security number, then just write “none” in response to that question. The U.S. Selective Service does not have a policy of reporting undocumented males to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Selective Service does not collect any information which would indicate whether or not you are undocumented.

Will I be inducted into the U.S. military if I register with Selective Service?

It's important to know that after you register, you will not automatically be inducted into the military. Currently, undocumented foreign nationals cannot volunteer with the U.S. military, even though they are required to register with the U.S. Selective Service. The federal government would first have to change this policy before inducting undocumented men 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.

What happens if I do not register with Selective Service?

U.S. citizen men who have registered remain eligible for Federal student aid, most Federal jobs, and Federal job training. Male non-citizens living in the U.S. who are 18 through 25 must register to remain eligible for citizenship. Similarly, a foreign national's failure to register for Selective Service is generally viewed, by the DHS when granting immigration benefits, as a demonstration of lack of *good moral character*. If you do not register it can affect your eligibility for future government benefits. Moreover, a man who fails to register may, if prosecuted and convicted, face a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or a prison term of up to five years.

How do I register with the U.S. Selective Service System?

You can register online at www.sss.gov or obtain registration forms at the U.S. Post Office or register through a Selective Service Registrar at your high school.