

SOCIAL SECURITY

Revised 03-05-02

I. Statutory References and Definitions

Minn. Stat. § [13.46](#), subd. 2(a)(6) - Welfare Data

Minn. Stat. § [13.49](#) - Social Security Numbers

[7 C.F.R. ' 272.1 \(g\)\(9\)\(i\)](#) - Social Security Number Required for Food Stamps

[42 U.S.C. ' 1320b-7](#) - Social Security Number Required for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

42 U.S.C. ' 405(c)(i) - Social Security Number Collection for General Public Assistance

[42 U.S.C. ' 1320b-7](#) - Income and Eligibility Verification System

II. CLASSIFICATION

A. SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT DATA - Much social security information such as Social Security number, type of benefit, amount, date of eligibility, is private data. Federal law allows the Social Security Administration to release this information to the welfare department to perform certain necessary functions, for example, to:

1. Administer state supplemental payments (SSI)
2. Determine Medicaid eligibility
3. Enroll welfare recipients for supplemental medical insurance
4. Determine assigned Social Security numbers of applicants for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
5. Provide treatment for drug addicts or alcoholics
6. Administer the Food Stamp Program
7. Administer the Child Support Enforcement Program
8. Establish and administer an automated income-verification system
9. Determine eligibility for federal programs

Reciprocal sharing from welfare department to the Social Security Office is permitted for program purposes pursuant to [Minn. Stat. § 13.46, subd. 2\(a\)\(6\)](#)

B. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER - The Federal Privacy Act of 1974 ([5 U.S.C. section 552](#)) makes it unlawful for any federal, state, or local government agency to deny to any individual any right, benefit, or privilege provided by law for refusing to disclose the individual's social security number unless (1) the disclosure is required by federal statute; (2) the requirement existed before January 1, 1975, and was enforced through local statute or regulation before that date; or (3) the collection of the social security number is for a tax, General Assistance, motor vehicle, or driver's license function.

In addition, the Privacy Act requires any federal, state, or local government agency that requests an individual to disclose the Social Security number to tell the individual: 1) whether such disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, 2) by which statutory or other authority such number is solicited, and 3) what uses will be made of the social security number.

Note that federal law requires applicants to give their social security numbers in order to receive Food Stamps and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. [7 C.F.R. ' 272.1\(g\)\(9\)\(i\)](#); [42 USC ' 1320b-7](#).

III. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Individuals hired as independent contractors by DHS must provide their employer identification number or social security number in order for DHS to encumber funds and administer the contract.

IV. CROSS REFERENCES WITH OTHER SECTIONS OF THE MANUAL

[Contracts and Grants](#)