



## Fast Facts about Selective Service

Virtually all men living in the U.S. are required by law to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

---

**If a young man fails to register before he turns 26, he can permanently lose access to:**

- All federally funded job training programs, along with many state and locally funded programs.
  - All federal government jobs, along with many state, county and municipal jobs, and an increasing number of private employers.
  - All federal and many state college loans and grants.
  - The ability to renew his driver's license in most states.
- 

Failure to register can also significantly delay the citizenship process for immigrant men wishing to become citizens.

---

Registration is NOT signing up for the military. Selective Service is an independent, civilian-run government agency.

---

The easiest way to register is online at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov), or by printing out the form available at the website and mailing it in. Forms are also available at most U.S. Post Offices.

---

**What's Different for Young Incarcerated Men**

- Incarcerated men are not required to register while they are incarcerated, HOWEVER:
    - A man IS REQUIRED to register within 30 days of his release if he is 18 or older and has not yet turned 26.
    - A man who spent 30 consecutive days not incarcerated between the ages of 18 and 26 IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER.
- 

A man who is currently in prison CAN AND SHOULD register before his 26th birthday if he entered prison after age 18, even if he will be incarcerated beyond age 26.

---

Men who ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER because they were continuously incarcerated between the ages of 18 and 26 should request a STATUS INFORMATION LETTER from Selective Service showing they were not required to register. Having this letter upon re-entry should facilitate the process of receiving job training, employment, or student loans tied to Selective Service registration.

---

**There are NO PENALTIES for registering UP UNTIL AGE 26, even if:**

- A man was incarcerated after age 18 and he failed to register when he was required to do so.
  - A man fails to register within 30 days of his release.
  - A man entered prison after age 18 and will not be released until after age 26.
- 

**Our research and anecdotal evidence indicates that most incarcerated men who fail to register either didn't know they were required to, thought that because they had a prison record they did not have to, or that because they didn't register on time, they might make more trouble for themselves if they register late.**

- You can make a huge difference in a young man's life by helping spread the word:
    - Educate young men when they are incarcerated.
    - Work to make registration part of the release process in your state or community.
    - Make sure Selective Service registration is part of the intake process for any social service, advocacy, or support organization young men may turn to when they are released.
    - Be an outreach champion. Include the registration message in any outreach you do to formerly incarcerated men and the groups that support them.
- 

**Learn more and register at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)**