

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

IMMIGRATION
LAW



SSS.GOV

**IMMIGRATION
ATTORNEY'S TOOLKIT**

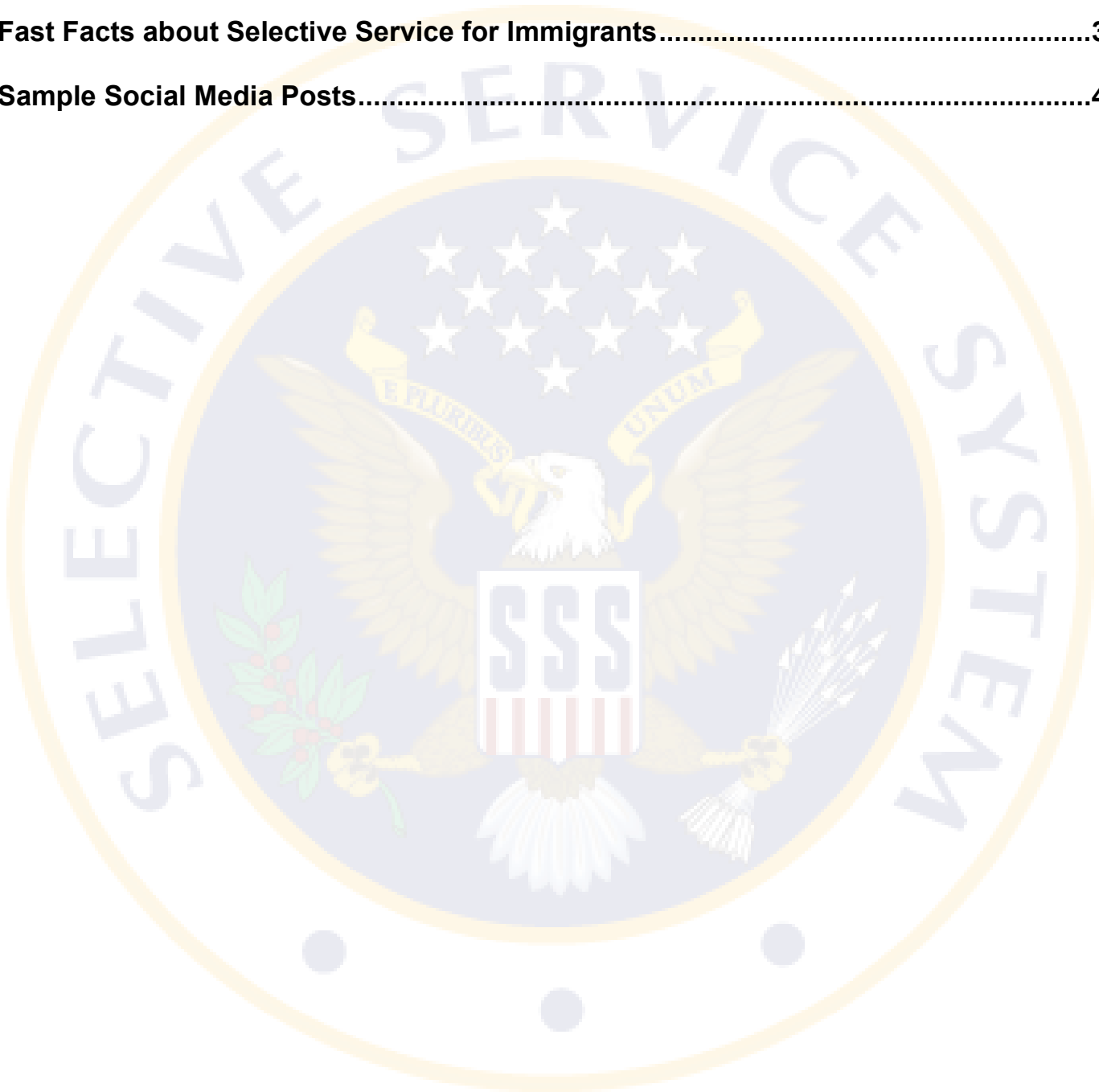
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Introduction

All U.S. male citizens, including non-citizens living in the U.S., are required to register with Selective Service when they turn 18 years old. This includes undocumented immigrants, legal permanent residents, those seeking asylum, and refugees. Failure to register prior to age 26 has lifelong consequences, such as ineligibility for federal employment (and employment with state and local government in 31 states), federal student loans and grants (including state-based student aid in 31 states), and federally-funded job training programs. Failure to register prior to reaching age 26 may delay naturalization proceedings by up to five years.

The easiest way to register is online at sss.gov. If your client doesn't have a social security number, he can visit a local U.S. Post Office for a Selective Service registration form (SSS Form 1) or fill out a [printable form](#) and mail it here:

Selective Service System
P.O. Box 94739
Palatine, IL 60094-4739

Fast Facts about Selective Service for Attorneys

- Virtually all men living in the U.S., including non-citizens, are required to register with Selective Service at www.sss.gov when they turn 18 years old. This includes undocumented immigrants, legal permanent residents, those seeking asylum, and refugees.
- If a young man fails to register before he turns 26, he can permanently lose access to:
 - 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
 - Federally-funded job training programs
 - Security clearances
 - A delay in up to five years in naturalization proceedings
- The easiest way to register is online at www.sss.gov, or by printing out the form available from the Selective Service's website and mailing it in. Forms are also available at any U.S. Post Office.
 - For men who don't have a social security number, the paper registration form, fillable online or from any U.S. Post Office, is the best option for registering.

Selective Service issues that are unique to immigrant men:

- Failure to register can delay the citizenship process for immigrant men wishing to become citizens.
 - There is, in essence, a five-year penalty for failing to register. Under current USCIS policy, immigrants who have not registered are not usually eligible for naturalization until they turn age 31.
- Young immigrant men may get the wrong message that there is no benefit to registration since they can just wait a few years for citizenship, but the fact is they will still lose out on all other benefits tied to registration, including eligibility for student loans.
- Men who were not required to register because they were a lawful non-immigrant on a visa through their 26th birthday should request a Status Information Letter from Selective Service showing they were not required to register. Go to <https://www.sss.gov/register/men-26-and-older/> for the Status Information Letter request form.
- Our research and anecdotal evidence indicates that most immigrant men fail to register because they didn't know about the registration requirement, or thought that because of their immigration status they might put themselves at risk.
 - ***Selective Service does not collect or share any information which would indicate a man's immigration status.***

Spread the Word:

- Educate your clients about the Selective Service registration requirement.
- Talk about a man's registration status early in the citizenship process if he is under the age of 26.
- Make sure Selective Service registration is part of the intake process for any *pro bono* work you may do in the community.
- Be an outreach champion. Include the registration message in any outreach you do to young immigrant men.

Fast Facts about Selective Service for Immigrants

What Is Selective Service?

- The Selective Service System is an independent agency within the Executive Branch of the U.S. Federal Government.
- Selective Service provides the United States with a structure and a system of guidelines which would provide the most prompt, efficient, and equitable draft possible, in the event that an unforeseen national emergency requires conscription.
- Selective Service is not part of the Department of Defense, and does not collect or share information with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Border Patrol, and/or the Department of Labor.

As an Immigrant, Do I Need to Fill Out the Form?

- Short answer: Yes. Undocumented male immigrants, legal permanent residents, those seeking asylum, and refugees are all required to register with the Selective Service System. This requirement is not the same as signing up with the Military.
 - Non-citizens who are NOT required to register with Selective Service include men who are in the U.S. on a valid student or visitor visa, men who are part of a diplomatic or trade mission, and their families.
- Men's failure to register by their 26th birthday can delay the citizenship process for those applying to become citizens; under current USCIS policy, immigrants who have not registered are not usually eligible for naturalization until they turn 31.
- Like any male U.S. citizen, if you fail to register before you turn 26 years old, you can permanently lose access to:
 - Federally-funded job training programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
 - 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.

NOTE: Selective Service does not collect or share any information which would indicate a man's immigration status.

How Do I Register?

The easiest way to register is online at sss.gov. If you don't have a social security number, you can visit a local U.S. Post Office for a Selective Service registration form (SSS Form 1) or fill out a [printable form](#) and mail it here:

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Legal Resources:

- [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#)
- [Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.](#)
- [Immigration Advocates Network](#)

Sample Social Media Posts

Topic/Fact	Sample Facebook Post	Sample Twitter Post
Men must register with Selective Service in order to qualify for job training programs	Job training programs can make a huge difference in helping young immigrants start successful careers in the U.S. But if young men don't register with Selective Service, they lose their eligibility for all federally funded job training programs. Don't let that happen. Spread the word. sss.gov	Don't let immigrant men miss out on free job training opportunities. Let them know about their requirement to register with @sss_gov if they enter the US before turning 26. sss.gov
Men must register with Selective Service in order to qualify for many jobs and college loans	To help young immigrant men get a fresh start, we must let them know they have to register with Selective Service before their 26th birthday to stay eligible for many good jobs and college loans. Learn more at sss.gov	Fact: immigrant men must register with @sss_gov to stay eligible for college loans and many federal and state jobs. Go to sss.gov to register today!
Men must register with Selective Service in order to renew a driver's license in some states	Did you know that to renew a driver's license in some states, a man must be registered with Selective Service? Spread the word with your clients! sss.gov	Did you know that to renew a driver's license in some states, a man must be registered with @sss_gov? Learn more: sss.gov
Share toolkit	Many immigrant young men – and their influencers – don't realize that failing to register for Selective Service can affect their eligibility for financial aid for college, federal job training programs, and many jobs. That's why Selective Service built a toolkit to help you talk about why it's important for young men to register. Check it out at https://www.sss.gov/news-and-media/outreach-materials/	Does your work help new immigrants in the US? A new toolkit from @sss_gov shares why it's critical for them to register. https://www.sss.gov/news-and-media/outreach-materials/
Selective Service and DACA	Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was a major step forward for undocumented immigrants. But there could be more challenges ahead if a young man does not register with Selective Service. sss.gov	DACA is a good start for undocumented immigrants--but to keep opportunities open they must also register with @sss_gov. sss.gov

Selective Service and citizenship	Failing to register for Selective Service not only means an immigrant man is permanently barred from opportunities in the future like federal student loans, job training programs, and many good jobs – he also delays the process of becoming a citizen. sss.gov	Male immigrants must register with @sss_gov if they are living in the US between the ages of 18-25. If they don't, it can significantly delay their citizenship by up to 5 years. Learn more at sss.gov
Selective Service and the DREAM Act	While the DREAM Act offers a path to residency and eventually citizenship, male immigrants must also register with Selective Service to avoid additional roadblocks to naturalization. sss.gov	While the DREAM Act offers a path to citizenship, immigrants must also register with @sss_gov to avoid roadblocks. sss.gov
Selective Service and undocumented citizens	All immigrant men—documented and undocumented—between the ages of 18-26 are required to register with Selective Service. To be clear, no information on a man's immigration status is collected or shared. sss.gov	All immigrant men—documented and undocumented—between the ages of 18-26 are required to register with @sss_gov. sss.gov
Selective Service and undocumented citizens	If you're working with young immigrant men who do not yet have social security numbers, they can still register with Selective Service using a paper form. https://www.sss.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Form-1.pdf	Work with young immigrant men who do not yet have SSNs? They can still register with @sss_gov using a paper form. https://www.sss.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Form-1.pdf
Potential complications and solutions for immigrants registering.	Did you know that failing to register with Selective Service can delay a young man's path to citizenship? He may be ineligible for naturalization until his 31 st birthday if he doesn't register by the time he turns 26. sss.gov	Did you know that failing to register with @sss_gov can delay a young man's path to citizenship? Learn more at sss.gov
Selective Service and refugees	Male refugees must register for Selective Service before they turn 26, or they can miss out on opportunities tied to registration – including job training programs, federal student loans, and good jobs. Failing to register also significantly delays the path to citizenship if they choose to stay in the country. Learn more. https://www.sss.gov/register/immigrants/	Refugees must register with @sss_gov before they turn 26, or they can miss out on opportunities tied to registration. https://www.sss.gov/register/immigrants/