

Social Security Numbers for Children

When you have a baby, one of the things that should be on your "to do" list is to get your newborn a Social Security number. The easiest time to do this is when you give information for your child's birth certificate while you're still at the hospital. If you wait to apply for a number at a Social Security office, there may be delays while we verify your child's birth certificate.

Why should I get a number for my child?

You need a Social Security number to claim your child as a dependent on your income tax return. Your child may also need a number if you plan to

- Open a bank account for the child;
- Buy savings bonds for the child;
- Get medical coverage for the child; or
- Apply for government services for the child.

Must my child have a Social Security number?

No. Getting a Social Security number for your newborn is voluntary. But getting a number when your child is born is a good idea.

***Above information found at www.socialsecurity.gov**

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§25.002 of the Texas Education Code addresses the requisites for enrollment and requires that a child's prior school district or the person enrolling the child provide certain records. The required records are:

- 1) a birth certificate or other proof of identity,
- 2) the child's records from the school most recently attended, and
- 3) immunization records.

These are the only records statutorily required for enrollment. Student social security numbers are used for purposes of the Public Education Information Management System; however, a district or charter will assign the student a state-approved alternative student identification number if the student's social security number is not provided.

Okay! Okay! No SS#? The state will assign you a "special" number. As noted above, "...a state-approved student identification number...."

I guess we can call that "Tattoo-Lite."