

Refer to:

705 E 41st Street
PO Box 1710
Sioux Falls SD 57105
January 10, 1990

Jerome T. Schiefen

Hudson, SD

Dear Mr. Schiefen,

Your recent letter to the Attorney General's office has been forwarded to us to answer.

Social Security is a voluntary system in that no one is required to get a number. However, programs which use social security numbers for control purposes might not allow a person without a social security number to participate.

The Internal Revenue Service uses social security numbers as taxpayer identification numbers. P. L. 87-397 was passed on October 5, 1961 requiring each taxpayer to furnish an identifying number for tax reporting purposes. Because of this; employers must have the social security numbers of their workers to legally report their earnings. They could not continue to employ an individual for whom they could not legally report earnings.

A bank or lending institution is not governed by social security rules but I doubt very much if they would refuse a loan simply because the applicant had no social security number. However, a person with no social security number would have no taxable income (see paragraph above) and I am sure this fact would have a bearing on their decision.

An inheritance large enough to be taxable would require the recipient to get a social security number for IRS purposes. The person leaving the inheritance would not be required to have a social security number just for this purpose.

I hope this helps answer your questions. If you need any further information you may call us at 1-800-952-0100.

Sincerely,

Penny Payton
Claims Representative

I hereby certify that the above letter from the Department of Health & Human Services to Jerome T. Schiefen, RR 1. Box 149, Hudson, South Dakota 57034, dated January 10, 1990 is a true and correct copy of the original.

NOTARY

