

How to Determine the State of Residence from the First 3 Digits of Social Security Numbers

Generally, if you wish to find out information about an individual's Social Security application, you will need to acquire that person's SS-5 form, a photocopy of which can be obtained from the Social Security Administration for a fee of \$21.00. See [SS-5 Form](#) for the form itself and mailing instructions. The information included on the application is:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full name• Full name at birth (including maiden name)• Present mailing address• Age at last birthday• Date of birth• Place of birth (city, county, state)• Father's full name "regardless of whether living or dead" | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mother's full name, including maiden name, "regardless of whether living or dead"• Sex and race• Ever applied for SS number/Railroad Retirement before? Yes/No• Current employer's name and address• Date signed• Applicant's signature |
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But what if you just wish to determine by the actual Social Security Number where the card was issued? In other words, where the applicant was living when they applied? The first 3 digits are called the Area Number, and it provides a clue. From the SSA (ssa.gov) in their description of the Area Number:

"The Area Number is assigned by the geographical region. Prior to 1972, cards were issued in local Social Security offices around the country and the Area Number represented the State in which the card was issued. This did not necessarily have to be the State where the applicant lived, since a person could apply for their card in any Social Security office. Since 1972, when SSA began assigning SSNs and issuing cards centrally from Baltimore, the area number assigned has been based on the ZIP code in the mailing address provided on the application for the original Social Security card. The applicant's mailing address does not have to be the same as their place of residence. Thus, the Area Number does not necessarily represent the State of residence of the applicant, either prior to 1972 or since.

Also, randomization of numbers started in 2011, so for applications after that date the Area Number has no meaning.

For the great majority of applicants, however, the first 3 digits (Area Number) do represent the state of residence at the time that the application was submitted

On the next page is a table of states and territories and the numbers that represent that location when assigning the SSN, the first 3 digits representing the Area Number, the magical first 3 digits of the SSN. When there is a blank State Name, it means that the state above has received additional numbers.

Please remember that this information only provides clues for your research. Of course there can be mistakes in the SSA's records. But remember this also, the Area Number has nothing to do with where the applicant was born.

- When the Area Number does have meaning, it refers to where the applicant went to a local office prior to 1972 and the location of that office.
- After 1972, there were additional numbers assigned for each state
- After 2011, the Area Number was randomized, so it ceased to have any meaning.

Furthermore, in current times, Social Security Numbers are often assigned in the hospital of birth.

The table on the next page is current as of 2003.

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001-003	New Hampshire	440-448	Oklahoma
004-007	Maine	449-467	Texas
008-009	Vermont	627-645	
010-034	Massachusetts	468-477	Minnesota
035-039	Rhode Island	478-485	Iowa
040-049	Connecticut	486-500	Missouri
050-134	New York	501-502	North Dakota
135-158	New Jersey	503-504	South Dakota
159-211	Pennsylvania	505-508	Nebraska
212-220	Maryland	509-515	Kansas
221-222	Delaware	516-517	Montana
223-231	Virginia	518-519	Idaho
691-699*		520	Wyoming
232-236	West Virginia	521-524	Colorado
232	North Carolina	650-653	
237-246		525,585	New Mexico
681-690		648-649	
247-251	South Carolina	526-527	Arizona
654-658		600-601	
252-260	Georgia	764-765	
667-675		528-529	Utah
261-267	Florida	646-647	
589-595		530	Nevada
766-772		680	
268-302	Ohio	531-539	Washington
303-317	Indiana	540-544	Oregon
318-361	Illinois	545-573	California
362-386	Michigan	602-626	
387-399	Wisconsin	574	Alaska
400-407	Kentucky	575-576	Hawaii
408-415	Tennessee	750-751*	
756-763*		577-579	District of Columbia
416-424	Alabama	580	Virgin Islands
425-428	Mississippi	580-584	Puerto Rico
587-588		596-599	
752-755*		586	Guam
429-432	Arkansas	586	American Samoa
676-679		586	Philippine Islands
433-439	Louisiana	700-728	Railroad Board
659-665		729-733	Enumeration at Entry