## 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:

- 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
- 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

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.

| 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 |

