

COMMON ISSUES WITH SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

Missing an individual's Social Security Number (SSN) to verify or submit registration.

Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO) programs should ask all individuals interested in enrolling for their SSN. Individuals are not required to provide an SSN, and participants cannot be denied services for not providing an SSN.

- If an individual is **unwilling** to provide their SSN, show them how to do the verification independently using the online form.
- If the individual is **unable** to provide their SSN, help them to print and mail the [registration form](#), which does not require an SSN.

Individuals under the age of 18 and/or individuals who are incarcerated who are not required to register with the Selective Service System (SSS).

It is your program's responsibility to educate all male participants about their responsibilities to enroll with Selective Service and to verify their registration. Males are required to register within 30 days of turning 18. Therefore, if a program participant turns 18, you should assist them in registering for Selective Service and document this in their case file.

Individuals who are incarcerated are not required to register with SSS. However, they **must** register with the SSS within 30 days of release if under the age of 26. REO programs should assist individuals with registering during this timeframe and document this in their case files.

Individuals are **unwilling** to register for Selective Service.

REO programs **cannot** enroll someone who is eligible for Selective Service and unwilling to register. Talk with the individual about their concerns and make sure they have all the correct information about why and how to register. Advise them of the consequences for not registering, which can include monetary fines; imprisonment; and exclusion from financial aid, public benefits, and employment.

A common reason individuals may not want to register with Selective Service is because they are "undocumented." Non-U.S. citizens and individuals in the U.S. without legal permission must still register with Selective Service. The Selective Service System does not collect or share any information related to immigration status.

Individuals are too old to register for Selective Service.

Individuals are not required to register with the SSS if they were incarcerated, hospitalized, institutionalized, or in military service **continuously** between the ages of 18 and 25, and in some immigration cases. However, REO Programs cannot serve individuals who knew they were supposed to register for Selective Service and **chose not to**.

In all "failure to register" instances, programs should help the individual prepare a [Request for Status Information Letter \(SIL\)](#) to document their circumstances and that their failure to register was not knowing and willful. The request and supporting documentation should be mailed to the Selective Service, which will issue a SIL based on the information provided. The SIL is a useful tool for participants to retain as they can use it for other federal benefits and programs. It is up to

each REO program to follow their written policy to determine if an individual's failure to register was knowing and willful and whether they are eligible for program services based on the information provided in the SIL. The program can make this determination once the Request is completed and does not need to wait for the official SIL to be returned.

If the program determines the individual knowingly and willfully did not register, **it must deny** services. Any individual denied services also must be advised of WIOA grievance procedures.

Additional details about Selective Services requirements and the Status Information Letter are available in [TEGL No. 11-11, Change 2](#)