

not protected from disclosure by the Privacy Act (20 CFR 401.350). The DMF contains the following information on each decedent, if the data are available to SSA:

Social Security Number
Last Name
First Name
Date of Death
Date of Birth
State/County Code of Residence
Zip Code—Last Residence
Zip Code—Lump Sum Payment

Occasionally, living individuals are erroneously included in the DMF (e.g., due to inaccurate death reports or inaccurate data input). DMF customers are warned that not all of the information is verified and SSA does not guarantee the accuracy of the DMF. Nonetheless, living individuals have complained to SSA that they were erroneously reported as deceased to DMF customers, such as insurance companies, financial institutions and credit agencies. This has resulted in insurance termination, denial of credit, embarrassment, inconvenience and other harm, both tangible and intangible to the individuals involved. The proposed routine use would allow SSA to routinely issue timely notices of correction to DMF customers if and when SSA corrects its own records. Such notices would not be dependent upon or require the consent of affected individuals.

II. Compatibility of the Proposed Routine Use

We are proposing this routine use in accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3)) and our disclosure regulation (20 CFR part 401). We disclose information for routine uses where necessary to carry out SSA's programs. Inherent in this is the responsibility of maintaining the records for SSA's programs with accuracy, relevance, and timeliness and to ensure against harm and embarrassment to individuals resulting from any inaccuracies in SSA's records as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(e) (5) and (10). We believe this responsibility for accuracy outweighs any concern that the correction of a record that was disclosed because it was incorrectly believed that the individual was deceased might constitute an improper disclosure concerning a living individual. The greater potential harm to the individual would result if the initial error were allowed to continue.

III. Effect of the Proposed Routine Use on Individuals

We will disclose information under the proposed routine use only to

recipients of the DMF to correct erroneous inclusion of individuals in the DMF. The intention is to expedite notification of DMF corrections and to minimize any harm to affected individuals that might result from action of DMF recipients that is based on erroneous inclusion in the DMF (e.g., termination of insurance, denial of credit). We do not believe that the routine use will have any unwarranted effects on the rights or privacy interests of individuals.

IV. Minor Revisions to the System of Records

We are also correcting a few self-evident errors for purposes of accuracy.

Dated: December 6, 1994.

Shirley S. Chater,
Commissioner of Social Security.

09-60-0058

SYSTEM NAME:

Master Files of Social Security Number (SSN) Holders and SSN Applications, HHS/SSA/OSR.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

None.

SYSTEM LOCATIONS:

Social Security Administration, Office of Systems Operations, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235; Social Security Administration, Office of Central Records Operations, Metro West Building, 300 N. Greene Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Records may also be maintained at contractor sites (contact the system manager at the address below to obtain contractor addresses).

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

This system contains a record of each individual who has applied for and obtained an SSN and of each individual whose application was supported by documents which are suspected to be fraudulent and are being verified with the issuing agency, or have been determined to be fraudulent.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

This system contains all of the information received on original applications for SSNs (e.g., name, date and place of birth, sex, both parents' names, and race/ethnic data), and any changes in the information on the applications that are submitted by the SSN holders. It also contains applications supported by evidence suspected or determined to be fraudulent, along with the mailing addresses of the individuals who filed such applications and descriptions of

the documentation which they submitted. Cross-references may be noted where multiple numbers have been issued to the same individual and an indication may be shown that a benefit claim has been made under a particular SSN(s).

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

Sections 205(a) and 205(c)(2) of the Act.

PURPOSE(S):

Information in this system is used by SSA to assign SSNs. The information also is used for a number of administrative purposes, such as:

- By SSA components for various title II, XVI, and XVIII claims purposes including usage of the SSN itself as a case control number and a secondary beneficiary cross-reference control number for enforcement purposes and use of the SSN record data for verification of claimant identity factors and for other claims purposes related to establishing benefit entitlement;
 - By SSA as a basic control for retained earnings information;
 - By SSA as a basic control and data source to prevent issuance of multiple SSNs;
 - As the means to identify reported names or SSNs on earnings reports;
 - For resolution of earnings discrepancy cases;
 - For statistical studies;
 - By the HHS, Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit Services, for auditing benefit payments under Social Security programs;
 - By the HHS OCSE for locating parents who owe child support;
 - By the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for epidemiological research studies required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1974;
 - By the SSA Office of Refugee Resettlement for administering Cuban refugee assistance payments; and
 - By the HHS HCFA for administering Title XVIII claims.
- Information in this system is also used by SSA to prevent the processing of an SSN card application for an individual whose application is identified as having been supported by evidence that either:
- Is suspect and being verified, or
 - Has been determined to be fraudulent.
- With this system in place, clerical investigation and intervention is required. Social Security offices are alerted in case an applicant attempting to obtain an SSN might visit other offices and might attempt to find one which would unwittingly accept fraudulent documentation.