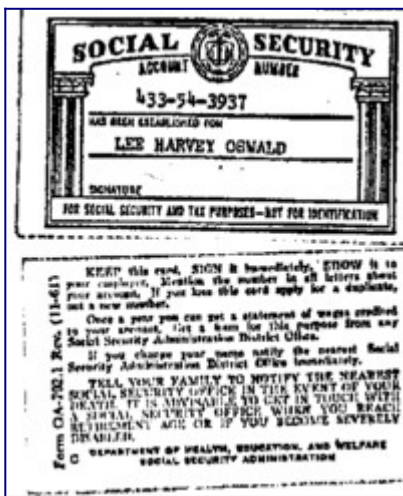


# Birth certificate

Main article: [Birth certificate](#)

The [birth certificate](#) is the initial identification document issued to parents shortly after the birth of their child. The birth certificate is typically issued by local governments, usually the city or county where a child is born. It is an important record, often called a "feeder document," because it establishes U.S. citizenship through [birthright citizenship](#), which is then used to obtain, or is the basis for, all other identity documents.[2] By itself, the birth certificate is usually only considered proof of citizenship but not proof of identity, since it is issued without a photograph at birth, containing no identifying features.

# Social Security card



The [Social Security number](#) (SSN) and card are issued by the [Social Security Administration](#). Almost all parents voluntarily apply for a Social Security number shortly after the birth of a child. In the absence of a national identity card (and concordant national identity number), the Social Security number has become the *de facto* national identifier for a large variety of purposes, both governmental and non-governmental.

The SSN was created to ensure accurate reporting of a worker's wages to the [Social Security Administration](#).

They do not have a photograph or physical description of the bearer, nor are they required to be renewed. Therefore, the Social Security card is not usually considered proof of identity, only proof that the person named on the card holds the number indicated on the card. It is normally used in conjunction with other documents, such as a photo ID, to prove that the person holding the card is legally present in the U.S. and has the right to work in the U.S. (unless the card is marked with a restriction).[4]

## State-issued driver's license/ID card

A [driver's license](#) is issued by each state's [DMV](#), which is required to drive.<sup>[5]</sup> Each state's DMV can also issue a state identification card. It does not contain any endorsements to operate vehicles and can be used as official identification where asked for or needed.

In addition to verifying driving privileges, drivers' licenses are used to purchase automobile insurance or during a police traffic stop and serve as the primary form of identity for American adults. They are widely used by both government entities and private businesses to verify identity or age, such as in entering secure government facilities, boarding a commercial airliner, business transactions, or in the purchase of age-restricted items such as [alcoholic beverages](#) or [cigarettes](#).

Driver's licenses include a gender marker, typically either "M" or "F". This has been changing in the early 21st century. As of September 2019, at least 14 states and the District of Columbia offer a third, gender-neutral option beyond "male" and "female"<sup>[6]</sup> to serve people with [nonbinary gender identities](#).

A **green card**, known officially as a **Permanent Resident Card**, is a document issued to immigrants under the [Immigration and Nationality Act](#) (INA) as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of [residing](#) permanently in the [United States](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup> Individuals with green cards are known as *Lawful Permanent Residents* (LPR) or green card holders. There are an estimated 13.2 million green card holders of whom 8.9 million are eligible for [citizenship of the United States](#).<sup>[3][4]</sup> Approximately 65,000 of them serve in the [U.S. Armed Forces](#).<sup>[5]</sup>

Green card holders are statutorily entitled to apply for U.S. citizenship after showing by a [preponderance of the evidence](#) that they, *inter alia*, have continuously resided in the United States for at least five years and are persons of [good moral character](#).<sup>[6][7]</sup> Those who are younger than 18 years old automatically derive U.S. citizenship if they have at least one U.S. citizen [parent](#).<sup>[8]</sup>