

Applying for a first-time Social Insurance Number

Why do you need it?

The Social Insurance Number (SIN) is a nine-digit number used in the administration of various Canadian government programs. You will require a SIN to work in Canada or to receive government benefits.

How to Apply?

To apply for a Social Insurance Number, you must complete an application form. You can obtain an application from your local office or download one. You must also provide a primary document (Certificate of birth or Birth Certificate) that proves your identity and status in Canada, as well as a supporting document, if the name on your primary document is different from the one you are currently using. It is important that documents are originals and that they are written in English or French.

If you are a parent or legal guardian signing an application for a Social Insurance Number on behalf of a minor, you must also provide your own proof-of-identity document.

If you are submitting an application for a Social Insurance Number on behalf of another person, you must provide a valid photo identity document and an original letter signed by the applicant giving authorization to submit the application on his/her behalf.

We encourage you to apply for your Social Insurance Number in person at one of our offices. This process is faster and more convenient, as it does not require you to part with your valuable identity documents. You may also apply by mail.

Your card should be received by mail within three weeks from the date you submit your application, providing it meets all criteria.

Apply online: <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/sc/sin/index.shtml>

Call Service Canada toll free for information: 1-800-206-7218

