

Use of Social Security Numbers by Montana Agencies*

*Based on responses to a February 2006 letter from the Economic Affairs Committee requesting information

Authority related to taxes, payroll and Social Security benefits:

- all agencies use SSNs for payroll (W-2), payments to contractors (warrants), payment of any type that needs to be reported - 1099s, or W-9s.
- agencies that report/compile tax information

Authority related to Federal requirements for:

- Child Support-related laws: Licensees and fishing/hunting/conservation licensees
- Retirement entities like the Public Employees Retirement Board and the Teachers Retirement System
- Verification of income eligibility: Board of Housing, Medicaid, Medicare-related billing, offsets, and payments, CHIP, TANF, Children's Mental Health
- Working conditions: unemployment insurance, Workforce Investment Act and related training acts intended to track success of work programs
- Military
- Social Security disability payments
- Birth & death certificates, marriage licenses, divorce decrees
- Database tracking other than workforce: Certified Nurse Aide database
- Background checks related to child welfare, teaching
- Some Uniform Commercial Code liens
- Securities dealers
- Financial aid for higher education

Authority from State for:

- Loans related to Board of Investments
- Mortgage broker licenses for background checks
- State Lottery Commission, for background checks and tracking taxes owed
- Voter registration (either driver's license or last 4 digits of social security number)

Areas of unclear authority:

- Many state agencies cite statutes that granted them rulemaking authority to implement policies. Although SSNs not specifically authorized, the agency uses rule to obtain SSNs.
- Investigation
- Insurance (including health insurance)
- Tracking of offenders
- First or secondary injury reports for workers compensation purposes

Interesting aspect: Many of the agencies indicated that the effort to determine use of social security numbers had made them more aware of whether they needed social security numbers or not. Several said they were eyeing policy changes as a result.