Social Insurance Number

**Overview**

To work or access government programs and benefits, you need a number known as a Social Insurance Number (SIN).

It is important to remember that your SIN is private and it is illegal for anyone else to use it.

SINs are issued in a paper format. If you have a SIN card that has not expired, it is still valid.

**Information about SIN Fraud**

If you have lost your SIN, or if it was stolen, Service Canada will not issue a new one.

The Government of Canada may issue a new SIN only if there is proof that the SIN was used fraudulently. If it is the case, you first need to report the fraud to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre[[1]](#footnote-1).

Once you have done so, visit a Service Canada Centre with the following documents:

* a proof that your SIN has been used fraudulently
* the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre report
* a valid primary identity document

**If you find someone else’s SIN**

Please return it to a [Service Canada Center](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca) or mail it to Service Canada.

1. Call 1-888-495-8501 for more information. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)