



Request for Social Security Numbers: Frequently Asked Questions

If you are covered by an Independence Blue Cross (Independence) health plan and recently received a letter asking you to provide a Social Security Number (SSN) for you or your covered dependent(s), we want to assure you that this is a real request from Independence.

You received this letter because Independence is required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to collect SSNs to report your coverage information to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

We take every possible measure to safeguard members' personal information. Please read our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) below for more information about the IRS reporting requirements.

Why are you asking me to provide a SSN?

As part of meeting Affordable Care Act requirements, Independence must make reasonable attempts to obtain collect SSNs for all covered individuals if we do not currently have them on file, or if they are incorrect or unable to be read clearly.

How are you using this information?

Independence is required by the ACA to report data to the IRS for members with health benefit plans that provide minimum essential coverage, unless the member obtained coverage through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace at [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov).

The data we must report includes an individual's name, SSN, and dates of coverage. This information will be used to provide you with an IRS 1095-B form, which you need as proof of coverage when you complete your federal tax return.

Please be assured that your privacy is very important to us, and we make every effort to securely collect and report this information to the IRS.

What happens if I do not provide this information?

The IRS 1095-B form is your proof of health care coverage during the previous calendar year when you complete your federal income tax return. The IRS uses the SSN we have on file to identify you and your covered dependents. If an SSN is missing or if it is incorrect or unable to be read clearly, the IRS may not count you or your covered dependents as having minimum essential coverage. As a result, you may be subject to a financial penalty from the IRS.

How do I provide this information?

Enclosed with the letter you received is a form and a postage-paid envelope. Please review the form carefully, fill in the required information, and return the completed form no later than two weeks from the date you received the letter.

What if I need another form mailed to me?

Please visit ibx.com/1095 to download a replacement SSN correction form. You can complete and mail the form to the address printed on the form, or you can scan the form and email it as an attachment along with your name and address to 1095@ibx.com.

Can I provide this information by telephone?

No. Independence must receive this information via the paper form you received with the letter for tracking and auditing purposes.