

# Social Security Trace

Information You Trust

## Social Security Trace

The Social Security Number Trace, AKA “Alias Search” is a vital step in the background screening check process. It is a powerful **investigative tool** that may provide information on an individual’s name history, present and past addresses and movement patterns based upon the applicant’s Social Security Number. It establishes an **investigative starting point** to allow for better management and focus of the overall screening by potentially revealing names and address history not previously disclosed by the applicant under which additional history may exist. The names may reflect previous legal names, such as maiden names, as well as variations of legal names used. The address history is a valuable tool used to identify jurisdictions used to search for criminal records. A Social Security Number Trace helps verify job applicants are who they say they are and ensures that employers are not the victim of a fraudulent application. **The Social Security Trace is NOT a verification that the Social Security Number belongs to that specific person.** It does indicate that a number has been “associated” with that person. The Social Security Number Trace is processed in **real time**, which makes for a quick turnaround.

The Social Security Number Trace includes data from numerous sources. The records are assembled and maintained by private sources. The records can have information that is incorrect or incomplete or belong to another person. Due to the variety of information sources that are subject to error and Data Facts inability to assist a consumer in finding the original source of information that proves to be incorrect, SSN Trace results CANNOT be considered a part of the consumer report and **are NOT to be the basis for any employment decisions or taking any adverse action.**

## Why do you need this information?

Courts do not share data across jurisdictional boundaries and there is no commercially available national database we can search to find ALL criminal records associated with an applicant. Data Facts suggests using a SSN Trace or Alias search to develop undisclosed names and addresses which will lead to search additional jurisdictions that may have been intentionally omitted from an application. Sometimes people change their name or use different forms of their name. This is an important step in the process since those individuals who have been previously convicted may know the limitations of the courts and will intentionally omit those names and addresses that lead to information about their convictions.

## Limitations of this Information

The Social Security Trace is **NOT an official confirmation** of that applicant's specific number directly from the government and is not an official review of government records (other than the Death Index which is included). The existence of other names or addresses on social security trace does not necessarily mean a consumer is the victim of identity theft, but a consumer may well want to order their free annual credit report in order to ensure that their identity is not being used.