

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION****Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program (SSA/State or Local Vital Statistics Organizations)**

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of computer matching programs.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act, as amended, this notice announces computer matching programs that SSA plans to conduct.

**DATES:** SSA will file a report of the subject matching program with the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The matching programs will be effective as indicated below.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties may comment on this notice by either telefax to (410) 966-2935 or writing to the Associate Commissioner for Program Support, 4400 West High Rise Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235. All comments received will be available for public inspection at this address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Associate Commissioner for Program Support at the above address.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****A. General**

The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Public Law (Pub. L.) 100-503), amended the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) by establishing the conditions under which computer matching involving the Federal Government could be performed and adding certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving Federal benefits. Section 7201 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-508) further amended the Privacy Act regarding protections for such individuals. The Privacy Act, as amended, regulates the use of computer matching by Federal agencies when records pertaining to individuals in a system of records are matched with other Federal, State or local government records. Among other things, it requires Federal agencies involved in computer matching programs to:

- (1) Negotiate written agreements with the other agency or agencies participating in the matching programs;
- (2) Obtain required Data Integrity Board approval of matching agreements;

(3) Furnish detailed reports about matching programs to Congress and OMB;

(4) Notify applicants and beneficiaries that their records are subject to matching; and

(5) Verify match findings before reducing, suspending, terminating or denying an individual's benefits or payments.

**B. SSA Computer Matches Subject to the Privacy Act**

We have taken action to ensure that the computer matching programs comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act, as amended.

Dated: April 16, 1997.

**John J. Callahan,**

*Acting Commissioner of Social Security.*

**Notice of Computer Matching Programs, Social Security Administration (SSA) with Participating State or Local Vital Statistics Organizations****A. Participating Agencies**

SSA and State or Local Vital Statistics Organizations.

**B. Purpose of the Matching Programs**

The purpose of these matching programs is to establish conditions under which each participating State or local vital statistics operation agrees to the disclosure to SSA of information regarding certain individuals who have divorced or married. The disclosure will provide SSA with information useful in determining claim and benefit status under both title II and title XVI of the Social Security Act (the Act), as changes in marital status of certain persons may affect benefits/payments under specific provisions of those titles.

**C. Authority for Conducting the Matching Programs**

This matching operation is carried out under the authority of sections 202 (42 U.S.C. 402), 216 (42 U.S.C. 416) and 1614 (42 U.S.C. 1382c) of the Act, which require SSA to make determinations of entitlement/eligibility for certain categories of Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits/payments due to changes in marital status. In addition, section 1631(e)(1)(B) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(e)(1)(B)) requires SSA to verify declarations of applicants for and recipients of SSI payments before making a determination of eligibility or payment amount.

**D. Categories of Records and Individuals Covered**

Each participating State or local government vital statistics operation will disclose certain State marriage and divorce information to SSA. Each participating operation will provide SSA with a file including Social Security Numbers (if available) of individuals who have married or divorced within its jurisdiction during the period covered by the matching program. The State and local sources will disclose the data for SSA's use in verifying entitlement/eligibility and/or benefit/payment amounts under the Social Security and SSI programs administered by SSA. Changes in marital status can affect entitlement to various categories of Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act (Act). In the SSI program under title XVI of the Act, marriage or divorce can affect eligibility for payments, or the amount of payments. The marriage and divorce data thus provided will be matched with appropriate systems of records maintained by SSA in order to help determine eligibility or correct benefit/payment amounts under titles II and XVI of the Act.

**E. Inclusive Dates of the Match**

Any specific matching agreement with a State or local entity shall become effective no sooner than 40 days after notice of the matching program and of the model agreement for the program is sent to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget, 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, or after the signature of both parties to the specific agreement, whichever is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months from the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if certain conditions are met.

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**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION****Social Security Disability Program Demonstration; Referral System for Vocational Rehabilitation Providers Demonstration Project**

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration (SSA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Commissioner of Social Security (the Commissioner) announces the Referral System for Vocational Rehabilitation Providers (RSVP) demonstration project. This