DECISION TREE OF CHOICES, OPTIONS, AND CONSEQUENCES FOR INDIVIDUALS REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE U.S. SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

Hexagonal orange boxes are points at which registrants/draftees have to make choices. Choices are shown by red lines. Some are yes or no decisions, others have multiple choices.

This diagram shows decisions about whether or not to register with the Selective Service System. A second diagram shows what can happen after you register, if you register and if there is a draft.

These diagrams do not show what might happen after cases are referred to the Department of Justice. Since 1986, the only sanctions for nonregistrants have been financial and administrative, not criminal.

The SSS refers more than 100,000 names a year of possible nonregistrants to the Department of Justice, and the DoJ does nothing with them. It's hard to predict how many cases, or which ones, might be selected for investigation or prosecution if people were being drafted, or how they would be handled.

Similarly, these diagrams do not show any of the possible actions or outcomes once draftees are inducted into the military. After a person exits or accepts induction into the military, any offenses or violations would be punishable by a court martial under military law, not in civilian courts.

DO NOT SAY ANYTHING TO THE FBI, AND DO NOT SIGN FOR ANY CERTIFIED LETTERS FROM THE SSS OR DoJ. TELL YOUR PARENTS, FAMILY, AND HOUSEMATES NOT TO SIGN FOR ANY LETTERS FOR YOU OR TALK TO THE FBI ABOUT YOU. CONTACT A LAWYER IF YOU RECEIVE A CERTIFIED LETTER OR IF YOU OR YOUR FRIENDS OR FAMILY ARE CONTACTED BY THE FBI.

For more information, see: https://www.sss.gov

US citizen or resident (includes green-card holders and undocumented residents)?

Not required to register.

Male at birth?

YES

Resident of state that requires SSS registration for drivers license?

Drivers-license choices

Don't drive until age 26

NO

Register on 18th birthday?

NO

Applying for Federal student aid (FAFSA form) or Federal job?

Federal financial aid or job choices.

YES

Find alternate funding or job.

NO

Abandon school or job.

Postpone school or job until after age 26 (and register with SSS just before age 26).

Applying for naturalization as US citizen?

US citizenship choices

YES

Register with SSS just before 26th birthday?

NO

Leave the US.

Postpone US naturalization until after age 26.

Lifetime ineligibility for naturalization as US citizen, Federal jobs or student aid, and state jobs and programs in some states.

Register with SSS

Registered with SSS

Complete FAFSA form or otherwise register with SSS.

Registered with SSS

Don't apply for US citizenship. Remain in the US in other immigration status.

Lifetime ineligibility for naturalization as US citizen, Federal jobs or student aid, and state jobs and programs in some states.

No penalty for late registration and no continuing penalties if register by 26th birthday.

Go to SSS processing and possible draft.

Not drafted under general draft.

Risk of special-skills draft regardless of age, gender, or SSS registration status.

Go on with your life.

Too old for general draft after age 26.

Apply for drivers license in state that requires SSS registration.

Move to state that doesn't require SSS registration for drivers license (CA, OR, MA, PA, etc.) or to another country until age 26.