



SOCIAL SECURITY

August 5, 2003

Mr. LaMonte Sample
c/o 668 Stony Hill Road #200
Yardley, PA 294431

Dear Mr. Sample:

This is in response to your correspondence to Commissioner Barnhart requesting a change be made in citizenship status on your form SS-5 ("Application for a Social Security Card") application. You requested that the Social Security Administration (SSA) change your status from "U.S. Citizen" to "Other." Your correspondence indicates your understanding of distinctions between U.S. citizenship and other designations such as, American, American National or Secured Party American citizenship. For record keeping purposes, SSA neither makes those same distinctions nor relies exclusively on the definitions of U.S. citizens you noted in your correspondence. (The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) has jurisdiction over the issues related to the definition of citizenship.)

SSA collects citizenship status information on the SS-5 for purposes of establishing and issuing an individual's Social Security number. Accordingly, the distinctions in definitions you characterize in your correspondence do not relate to the purpose for which SSA denotes "U.S. Citizen" on the SS-5 application for a Social Security card. SSA uses all of the categories denoted on the SS-5 to facilitate the technical collection of data and distinguish individuals who have citizenship status from those who do not. The "Other" category cannot be used by SSA to indicate individuals who declare themselves "American citizens" since SSA employs this category to define individuals in various conditional statuses.

Please refer any future questions regarding the definition of citizenship to BCIS. Any questions about issues of taxation and the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) use of the Social Security number as an identifier should be directed to the IRS.

Sincerely,

Annie White

Annie White
Associate Commissioner
Office of Public Inquiries