



Conscientious Objector Service

of the
National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors

REGISTRATION MEMO

Every man who is a citizen of the United States has a legal obligation to register with the Selective Service System when he becomes 18. It is also the legal obligation of every male alien who is a "permanent resident" of the U.S. to register for the draft on his 18th birthday or before his 26th birthday.

Every man required by law to be registered shall do so at the local board for the area he lives in, or the local board nearest to him. During the period 30 days before and 30 days after his 18th birthday, he must register for the draft. An alien who entered the U.S. after his 18th birthday, will have six months from the day he became a "permanent resident", in which to register.

Failure to register within the time period allowed is a violation of the Military Selective Service Act and is a felony offense. Many men are tardy in registering, mainly out of their own ignorance, and are not punished. However, a willful failure to register may result in indictment and prosecution.

EXEMPTIONS FROM REGISTRATION

Certain aliens and U.S. citizens are exempted from registering for the draft. Men are not required to register at age 18 if they are a member of: an active or reserve unit of the Armed Forces, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Public Health Service; a cadet or midshipman in a U.S. service academy or U.S. Naval Reserves; or a student enrolled in an officer procurement program at a military college whose curriculum is approved by the Secretary of Defense.

Furthermore, aliens in any of the following categories are not required to register: diplomatic personnel or members of their families, including aliens assigned to the United Nations Headquarters; aliens who are not permanent residents (nonimmigrant visas or seasonal workers); aliens from a country that has a treaty or agreement with the U.S. providing for exemption from military service.

Men who were previously exempted from registration and who become eligible will have six months to register unless they have reached the age of 26 or have completed their service obligation.

NON-REGISTRATION

Some men consider any cooperation with the military or draft to be a violation of conscience. These men refuse to register for the draft as a form of resistance or non-cooperation. They become subject to possible indictment, arrest, trial and punishment as felons. If a non-registrant has not been indicted within 5 years after his 26th birthday, the government may not bring him to trial for violating this part of the law.

Any man required to be registered may be registered against his will. If a man fails to complete any part of the registration process, the registrar may complete it for him, including signing the man's name to the registration forms. Men who are not registered and who are inmates or patients in an institution (such as prison) will be registered by the director of the institution when they are released.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

At the time required, each man must go to his local board or registration office and become registered. First, he will be asked to present some form of identification. The registrar will then ask him to sign his name and address on the Tally Sheet (SSS

Form 4) and to answer a few general questions which will be entered on the Registration Card (SSS Form 1). Upon signing the Registration Card, the man will become a registrant with the Selective Service System.

The registrant will then be given a Registration Questionnaire (SSS Form 100) to be taken home and returned within 10 days. Some local boards prefer to mail the Questionnaire to the registrant along with his Registration Certificate (SSS Form 2). The registrant's local board must issue the Certificate no later than 10 days after registration. This Certificate, along with the Classification Card (SSS Form 110) are the draft cards which a registrant must have in his possession at all times.

Men who are outside of the continental U.S., the states of Alaska and Hawaii, the colonies of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the Panama Canal Zone have the same obligation to register for the draft. These men can register before any diplomat or consular officer who is a U.S. citizen.

One important step in the registration process for men outside the U.S. is determining their permanent U.S. residence. If a man can not or will not supply the registrar with a permanent U.S. address, he will be registered with the District of Columbia Local Board #100 (Foreign) until such time as he establishes a permanent residence in the U.S. If he does designate a permanent U.S. address, he will be registered with the local board having authority over that area. Each man registered with D.C. Local Board #100 will be assigned his lottery number, classified, placed in selection groups, and processed for armed forces examination, induction or alternate service in the same manner as men registered within the U.S. (*see CCCO's Draft Procedures Abroad Memo*)

HOW TO FILL IN FORM 100

It is important to read through the Registration Questionnaire (SSS Form 100) before filling it out. Many men want to talk with a draft counselor or with the Advisor to Registrants assigned to each local board before registering. Falsifying any information on the Questionnaire makes a man subject to 5 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000. Each series of questions, except for those on the first page, ask about a man's eligibility for various deferments and exemptions. These questions should be answered carefully. One need not restrict his comments to the "yes" and "no" boxes provided on the Questionnaire. Series IX - Remarks, allows for more lengthy answers, and additional sheets may be attached if necessary.

If a registrant checks any of the "yes" boxes in Series I through VIII, he will be sent a form or asked to submit documentary evidence by his local board at a later time. Whenever there is a change in his status which might change his classification, the registrant is required by law to inform his local board, unless he is in the "holding" classification I-H.

The first page of the Questionnaire asks general questions about the identity and residence of the registrant. The address a man gives for his "place of residence" will determine the local board to which he will be assigned. The address he gives for his "mailing address" is the address to which all S.S. correspondence will be mailed. All changes of address must be reported to the local board within 10 days regardless of the registrant's classification. If S.S. correspondence has to be delayed by forwarding, the registrant may miss the deadline to appeal an unsatisfactory classification.

The Questionnaire also asks for the names and addresses of 3 persons, other than members of the man's immediate family or household, who will always know his address. These persons may be parents or guardians so long as the registrant does not actually live with them.

Series I - Military Record. Registrants who have served in the armed forces of the U.S. for at least six months prior to their registration will be eligible for the 4-A classification if they submit a copy of their separation papers. Service of at least 12 months in the armed forces of a country which the U.S. considers to be associated in mutual defense activities and which grants exemption for military training and service to U.S. citizens will make an alien eligible for the 4-A classification if he submits the appropriate information written in English. Members of a reserve component, including National Guard, or a Reserve Officer's Training Corps will be eligible

for the 4-A classification by submitting DD Form 44 to the local board.

Series II - Hardship to Dependents. If a registrant thinks that his induction into the Armed Forces will cause an extreme hardship to his dependents, he may be eligible for a 3-A deferment. Hardships to dependents can be financial, physical or psychological in nature. A dependent can be a registrant's wife, divorced wife, child, parent, grandparent, brother or sister. A dependent can also be any person who is physically or mentally handicapped and is supported by the registrant, even if not his relative. A registrant making a hardship claim will need to submit SSS Form 118 and other documentation. (*see CCCO's Hardship Deferment Memo*)

Series III - Minister or Student Preparing for the Ministry. A registrant whose primary occupation is as a minister of religion will be eligible for the 4-D exemption. A student who is enrolled or pre-enrolled in a recognized divinity school for the purpose of becoming a minister of religion will be eligible for the 2-D divinity school student deferment. Registrants seeking either of these classifications will need to submit SSS Form 172. (*see CCCO's Divinity Students and Clergy Memo*)

Series IV - Conscientious Objector. A registrant who is a conscientious objector to participation in war in any form based upon his moral, ethical or religious beliefs will be eligible for either the 1-A-0 or 1-0 classifications. The 1-A-0 classification is for a conscientious objector who is opposed to combatant military service, but who will serve as a noncombatant if drafted. The 1-0 classification is for a conscientious objector who is opposed to both combatant and noncombatant military service. 1-0s are required to serve 2 years in civilian alternate service if their lottery numbers are selected. A man making a claim to be a conscientious objector will need to submit the Special Form for Conscientious Objectors (SSS Form 150) along with supportive evidence to his local board. (*see NISBCO's Conscientious Objectors and the Draft, 48 pp., and memos on every aspect of conscientious objection as it relates to the military and draft*)

Series V - Physical Condition. A registrant who has a physical or mental condition which would disqualify him from military service will be eligible for the 4-F deferment. A description of the physical conditions which will disqualify a man from service can be found in the Army's "Medical Fitness Standards for Induction". (*available from NISBCO*) A registrant who believes he is not qualified for service will need to submit documentary evidence to the Army examiners at the time of his pre-induction or induction physical. This evidence should describe his condition fully and include a statement from his doctor(s) giving a medical history, a diagnosis of the condition, the likelihood of future recovery, and an indication of whether the condition might get worse or prevent his functioning if he is drafted. (*see CCCO's 4-F and Medical Reports Memos*)

Series VI - Court Record. If a registrant has been convicted of a felony or of a crime punishable by death or imprisonment for more than a year, he may be eligible for the 4-F deferment on administrative or "moral" grounds. Frequent misdemeanors or the conditions of awaiting trial or being on probation or parole may also result in the 4-F deferment. However, many of these conditions are subject to waiver by the Armed Forces. Registrants who have checked the "yes" box in this series will be sent SSS Form 173 before reclassification.

Series VII - Surviving Son. If a registrant is the only surviving son in a family where a father, brother or sister died as the result of being in the Armed Forces, he will be eligible for the 4-G exemption as a "sole surviving son". If a registrant is of a family who has had a father, brother or sister die, since December 31, 1959, as a result of being in the Armed Forces, or is currently missing-in-action or a prisoner of war, he will be eligible for the 4-G exemption as a "surviving son" regardless of the number of living brothers. A registrant who claims eligibility for the 4-G exemption will submit SSS Form 174 when it is sent to him. (*see CCCO's Surviving Sons Memo*)

Series VIII - Alien Status or Dual Citizenship. Alien registrants who are in a permanent residence status, but who have not been in the U.S. for periods of time totaling one year, will be eligible for the 4-C deferment. If an alien establishes that he is exempted for military service because of a treaty or agreement between the U.S. and his country, he will be eligible for the 4-C deferment when he requests it. Any alien who departs from the U.S., even if he is under an induction or work order, will be eligible for the 4-C deferment. Leaving the U.S. for the purpose of avoiding service, however, will leave the man open to prosecution or deportation if he returns to the U.S.

Certain aliens admitted to the U.S. will be eligible for the 4-C deferment because of their occupational status as defined by the Immigration and Nationality Act. Registrants seeking the 4-C deferment will be asked to submit SSS Form 131. A very small number of men may hold dual citizenship in the U.S. and another country. These men will be treated like any other U.S. citizen. *(see CCCO's Aliens and the Draft Memo)*

CLASSIFICATION

Shortly after registering, each man will receive a Classification Card. Most registrants will be classified 1-H unless they are obviously eligible for a lower classification. In the calendar year in which a man turns 19, there will be a national lottery drawing to assign lottery numbers (Random Sequence Numbers) to all the men born in the same calendar year. Later that year, Selective Service will establish a "1-H cut-off number" and begin processing all registrants below this number. Processing will include reclassifications into a class higher than 1-H, and physical examinations. At the time the "1-H cut-off number" is announced, local boards will send a Current Information Questionnaire (SSS Form 127) to men who are being processed in order to determine the classification in which they will be placed.

If a registrant makes a nonfrivolous claim to be eligible for any classification, which has not previously been considered by the local board and which, if true, would be sufficient to warrant being reclassified, the local board must reopen the registrant's classification, unless there is evidence in his draft file which clearly refutes his claim. The local board can not reopen the man's classification once an induction or work order has been issued, unless the local board finds that the registrant's late claim resulted from circumstances over which he had no control. Or, if the induction or work order has been postponed and no new date for induction or work has been set, the classification must be reopened, if new facts are presented to the local board which, if true, would justify a change in classification.

TRANSFERRING

A registrant may request that his first classification (other than the routine administrative 1-H classification after registration) be transferred to a local board nearer to his place of residence, if he is so far from his local board as to make complying with notices an extreme hardship. A registrant may also have his classification action transferred to another local board at any time the local board can not act on his classification because of a disqualification or when the State Director determines such a transfer necessary to insure equal treatment under the law.

Transferring classification is not the same as transferring local boards. The local board to which a man is assigned will always have authority over him with only one exception -- a man registered with D.C. Local Board #100 will be transferred to a local board having authority over his new place of residence when he establishes a permanent residence in the U.S., except when he has a personal appearance or appeal pending, or is under an order to report for induction or alternate service.

All materials referred to in this memo are listed, with current prices, on the C.O.S. literature order blank, free upon request from NISBCO.