



MEMORANDUM

U. S. Department of Justice
Office of the U. S. Trustee
Northern District of Indiana

SUBJECT

DATE

Debtors' Social Security Numbers
and Identification

November 21, 2001

TO

FROM

BANKRUPTCY PRACTITIONERS
Northern District of Indiana

Alex L. Edgar
Assistant U.S. Trustee

IMPORTANT - 341 MEETING POLICY CHANGE

FOR CASES FILED JANUARY 2, 2002 AND THEREAFTER, ALL CHAPTER 7 AND CHAPTER 13 DEBTORS MUST PROVIDE CASE TRUSTEES WITH PICTURE IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY THEIR IDENTITY AND PROOF OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.

Acceptable picture identification includes a valid state-issued drivers license, state-issued picture identification card, passport or legal resident alien card. Acceptable proof of social security number includes a social security card, a current W-2 form or some other official document which shows name and social security number. The 341 meeting **will be** continued to the trustee's next calendar date if a debtor does not have the required identification.

You will be required to file an amended petition to correct any incorrect social security numbers. In the past year, the U. S. Trustee Program has identified many instances of incorrect social security numbers on bankruptcy petitions. In some cases, we have uncovered social security fraud and have made the appropriate referral to the United States Attorney's Office.

Verifying social security numbers will protect innocent third parties from both the intentional or inadvertent use of their social security numbers and prevent bankruptcy fraud. The credit records of any individual whose social security number was used will reflect a bankruptcy filing, when in fact that individual may not have filed bankruptcy. The cost to correct the adverse credit history can be substantial. With your assistance we will be able to reduce the number of cases which are being filed with incorrect social security numbers.

We appreciate your cooperation in implementing this new policy. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (219) 236-8105.