

vintage burberry bag real or fake

As Tax Day 2018 approaches, it is worth exploring a pressing question that is widely misunderstood: do undocumented immigrants pay federal taxes?

Why Would an Undocumented Immigrant Pay Taxes?

Only certain non-citizens are eligible to receive a Social Security number. If an immigrant is authorized to work temporarily-whether through a work visa like an H1-B or a temporary work-authorized status such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status-a Social Security number is issued and remains valid for the length of the work authorization period. Green card holders, refugees, asylees, and certain other non-citizens who are allowed to live and work in the United States indefinitely are also eligible for a Social Security number with no restrictions. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible to obtain a Social Security number.

Since the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, all employers are required to verify the work eligibility of all new hires by completing Form I-9, which mandates the employee provide a Social Security number and show documents to their employer to prove work authorization and identity. U.S. citizens frequently show their driver's license and Social Security card, but because there are a number of documents that can be used to complete the form, the worker does not necessarily need to show their actual Social Security card. Undocumented workers who are hired without valid work authorization may provide their employer a fake Social Security number, someone else's number, or even a previously-valid number issued when they may have had work authorization that has since lapsed. Furthermore, most employers do not-and, except for certain employers, are not required to-verify this information with any government entity at the time of hire.

Additionally, employers cannot, by law, ask to see any specific or additional documents other than what the worker provides, so the Social Security number provided by an undocumented immigrant on their Form I-9 would be used by the employer to withhold payroll taxes and would be included on their W-2 form.

Further, the IRS will not allow a tax return to be filed with a fake or stolen Social Security number. Therefore, unauthorized workers who wish to file their taxes and potentially get future credit for it- must find another way. Thus, many use the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, or ITIN, which allows immigrants without Social Security numbers to legally file tax returns and claim the income reported on their W-2's to the IRS.

What is an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)?

All that is required to obtain an ITIN is an application form that requires basic information such as one's name, date of birth, and address, along with a filled-in federal income tax return, and proof of identity- not proof of work aut