

# Do this to Fix SIM Card Registration Failed Error on Mobile

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### In brief

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While using a mobile phone, network-related problems can show up without much warning. "SIM card registration failed" is one of those frustrating errors many mobile users run into at the worst possible time. When your SIM fails to register on the mobile network, your phone may stop making calls, receiving calls, sending texts, or using mobile data. In some cases, you may see messages such as "No Service," "SOS," "Emergency Calls Only," or "Not Registered on Network."

In the previous article, we detailed the mobile network state disconnected issue and its solution. Here, I'm focusing specifically on the troubleshooting methods that can help fix the SIM card registration failed issue on your phone.

## SIM Card Registration Failed

SIM card registration failure can happen for several reasons. Sometimes the problem is with your carrier. Sometimes the SIM card itself is damaged, deactivated, or not provisioned correctly. And sometimes the phone is the real issue, not the SIM. That is why this error needs a step-by-step approach instead of random guessing.

What has changed in recent years is that this problem is no longer limited to physical SIM cards. Many newer phones now use eSIM as well, so registration failures can also happen when an eSIM profile is not activated properly, the carrier transfer is incomplete, or the device software has not refreshed its network settings. Apple and major carriers now specifically recommend checking for carrier updates, reconnecting through Airplane Mode, and verifying whether the line is active before assuming the SIM is bad.

If you also notice there is no signal on your mobile, that usually means the phone has not completed network registration correctly. The good news is that most cases can be narrowed down with a few practical checks.

## Fix the SIM Failure Issue on Your Mobile

Below are the troubleshooting steps I'd recommend following in order. Do not jump straight to replacing the SIM unless the earlier checks fail. In my experience, the simple fixes solve the issue more often than people expect.

### Restart the Mobile

For almost every smartphone-related issue, restarting the phone is still the first thing to try. It sounds basic because it is basic. But it works. A restart forces the phone to reconnect to the carrier network, reload radio services, and clear small software glitches that may be blocking registration.

Once the phone turns back on, wait a minute or two and see whether the network bars return. If the error is still there, move to the next step.

## **Turn Airplane Mode On and Off**

This is one of the most overlooked fixes. Turn on Airplane Mode for around 15 to 30 seconds, then turn it off again. That forces the phone to drop and re-establish its connection to nearby cellular towers. Apple specifically recommends this when an iPhone shows No Service or Searching, and the same logic applies on Android as well. You can also review Apple's official network connection guide if your iPhone is stuck in SOS or No Service mode.

If your phone reconnects after this step, the problem was likely a temporary registration or tower handshake issue.

## **Reinsert the SIM Card**

If restarting and refreshing the network do not help, switch off the phone and remove the SIM card. Reinsert it carefully, making sure it sits properly in the tray. Then power the phone back on.

This matters more than people think. A loose tray, dust on the contacts, or a slightly misaligned SIM can stop the phone from reading the card properly. On iPhones and many Android devices, even an incorrectly fitted tray can cause repeated No SIM or registration errors.

Check again whether your phone is receiving a network signal. If the problem continues, keep going.

## **Check Whether the Problem Is With the Network**

Before blaming the SIM, check whether your carrier is having service trouble in your area. Outages, maintenance work, tower congestion, and regional disruptions can all prevent successful registration. This is especially common if the issue appears suddenly even though the SIM was working fine earlier in the day.

Your service provider can confirm whether there is an outage, whether the line is suspended, or whether your number needs reprovisioning. AT&T also has guidance on understanding wireless network outages, which is useful if you are trying to tell the difference between a phone problem and a carrier-side issue.

## **Check With Your Service Provider**

The next step is to contact your mobile carrier directly. A quick call, support chat, or store visit can save a lot of time. Ask them to verify that your SIM or eSIM is active, correctly provisioned, and attached to the right device line.

This is the part many people miss. A SIM can look perfectly fine physically and still fail because activation was incomplete, the account has a restriction, the number transfer did not finish, or the network profile is broken. Carriers such as T-Mobile now maintain dedicated support pages for SIM and eSIM setup because activation problems are not rare anymore.

If the issue is from the provider's side, they will tell you, and you may not need to do anything else. If it is not, they will usually suggest the next steps or arrange a replacement SIM if needed.

## Update Your Phone Software and Carrier Settings

Here is where things get interesting. Older articles often skip this step, but in 2026 it absolutely belongs in the list. Outdated system software, old modem firmware, or missing carrier settings can stop a phone from connecting correctly to LTE or 5G networks.

On iPhone, Apple recommends checking for iOS updates and carrier settings updates. On Android, carriers and device makers often push radio and compatibility fixes through system updates. If your phone has recently started showing this issue after a failed update, or after moving the SIM to a new device, this step becomes even more important.

If you use eSIM on Android, T-Mobile's official Android eSIM troubleshooting page also recommends confirming Wi-Fi access, updating the phone, and retrying activation.

## Reset Network Settings

If the SIM is active and seated correctly but the phone still cannot register, reset the network settings. This clears saved carrier-related settings, mobile network preferences, and connection data that may have become corrupted.

On Android devices, this option is usually found under System, Reset Options, or General Management depending on the brand. On iPhone, it is under Transfer or Reset iPhone and then Reset Network Settings.

Google's official troubleshooting for SIM issues also points users toward service recovery steps when there is a "No SIM" message or no signal bars, which you can review in its SIM issue help guide.

Be aware that resetting network settings may remove saved Wi-Fi networks and Bluetooth pairings too, so make sure you are ready for that before you proceed.

## Insert the SIM Card on Another Mobile

This is still one of the best ways to isolate the problem. Insert the SIM card into another compatible phone and check whether it registers there. If the SIM works normally in a different device, the issue is likely with your phone's SIM reader, software, or carrier configuration on that device. If it fails on another phone too, the SIM itself or your network account becomes the more likely cause.

That single test can save you from replacing the wrong thing.

## For eSIM Users, Confirm the Cellular Line Is Active

If your phone uses eSIM, there may be no physical card to reinsert, so the check is different. Make sure the mobile line is visible and enabled in your cellular settings. If the line is missing, inactive, or stuck during transfer from an old phone, you may need to reactivate it with your carrier.

This comes up a lot during phone upgrades. People assume the number has moved successfully, but the old device may still hold the active line while the new device has only a partial setup. Apple's eSIM setup documentation explains the supported activation methods and transfer flow in its iPhone cellular setup page.

## Replace Your SIM Card With a New One

If none of the above steps solve the problem, replacing the SIM card is the final practical fix. SIM cards can wear out, get scratched, suffer contact damage, or simply fail over time. A replacement SIM is usually quick to obtain from your service provider, and once activated, it often resolves the issue completely.

If you are on eSIM, the equivalent fix is to remove the faulty eSIM profile and have the carrier issue a fresh activation or QR code.

## When the Issue Might Be the Phone Itself

If the SIM works on another device but not on yours, the phone may have a faulty SIM slot, damaged tray, modem issue, or software corruption. That is more likely if the problem started after a drop, water exposure, motherboard repair, or unsupported carrier flashing.

At that point, I would stop chasing the SIM and start evaluating the handset. A service center can test the hardware properly, and that is often faster than repeating the same network steps over and over.

## Conclusion

The SIM card registration failed issue can happen for several reasons, including minor software bugs, temporary network outages, incomplete activation, eSIM setup problems, or a physically damaged SIM. The smartest way to fix it is to go step by step: restart the phone, toggle Airplane Mode, reinsert the SIM, check for provider issues, update the device, reset network settings, test the SIM in another phone, and then replace the SIM if necessary.

Most importantly, do not assume the SIM is dead just because the phone says so. In many cases, the real problem is incomplete carrier provisioning or a device-side network glitch. Work through the checks in order, and you should be able to identify whether the problem is with the SIM, the network, or the phone itself.

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