

New Scam Targets Social Security Benefits

Do you collect Social Security? This new scam may be targeting you.

How it works:

- You get a call from someone who claims to be a Social Security Administration (SSA) employee. Your caller ID may show a number with a 323 area code.
- The scammer then tells you that you are due a cost-of-living increase in your social security benefit.
- The caller will then try to get you to “verify” your Social Security number, name, date of birth, and other personal information
- If the scammer succeeds, they will use this information to change your direct deposit, address and phone information with the SSA.

What you should - and should NOT - do:

- Never provide personal information, such as your social security number, date of birth, or bank account number to anyone who contacts you on the phone or internet until you are able to verify the person’s identity.
- Verify the identity of the requestor by using contact information you obtain yourself – not contact information given to you by the requestor.
- If you have questions about any SSA communication – a call, letter, email or text – contact your local SSA office or call 1-8000-772-1213.

For more information on this or other consumer topics, or to request this publication in an alternative format, contact the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection at 410-313-6420 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/consumer.