



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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County of Summit

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-ALERT-

Social Security Scam

My office is constantly on the lookout for the latest scams and new ways crooks are trying to get your money. Recently, the Social Security Administration shared a new scam with my office. Social Security and its Office of the Inspector General continue to receive reports about fraudulent phone calls from people falsely claiming to be Social Security employees. The scammers mislead victims into making cash or gift card payments to avoid arrest for bogus Social Security number problems.

People should be on the lookout for a new version of this scam. Fraudsters are now emailing fake documents in attempts to get people to comply with their demands. Victims have received emails with attached letters and reports which appear to be from Social Security or the Office of the Inspector General. The letters use official letterhead and government jargon to convince victims they are legitimate. However, they may also contain misspellings and grammar mistakes.

Social Security employees do occasionally contact people--generally those who have ongoing business with the agency--by telephone for business purposes. However, Social Security employees will never threaten a person, or promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase, in exchange for information or money. In those cases, people should just hang up.

Social Security will not:

- Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended.
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment.
- Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a prepaid debit card, a retail gift card, or cash.
- Demand that you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe.
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money.

If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, in most cases Social Security will mail a letter. If a person needs to submit payments to Social Security, the agency will send a letter with instructions and payment options. People should never provide information or payment over the phone or Internet unless they are certain of who is receiving it.

The new PSA addressing the telephone impersonation scheme is available online at www.youtube.com/socialsecurity .

For information on crime safety, follow us at:
<https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyProsecutorOffice/>

Stay Safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherril B. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
Summit County Prosecutor