

# FRAUD ALERT!

## **Attorney General Corbett warns seniors not to respond to calls claiming they must get a new Social Security card**

HARRISBURG - Attorney General Tom Corbett today warned older Pennsylvanians not to release any personal or financial information to callers who say they represent the Social Security Administration and need their personal data to process their required new Social Security card.

"I strongly urge consumers to hang-up immediately on any person calling your home claiming to be from the Social Security Administration seeking your personal or financial information to process a new Social Security card," Corbett said. "This is purely an attempt to obtain your Social Security number and other information for the purpose of stealing your identity."

Corbett said the Bureau of Consumer Protection Office in Erie received calls from several consumers located in Mercer County who claimed that a woman called their homes claiming to be affiliated with the Social Security Administration.

The female caller said she was calling senior citizens in the area because they are required to get new Social Security cards. The caller asked consumers for their identifying personal information including their Social Security and bank account numbers.

One consumer told Corbett's Office when she questioned the woman caller a man got on the line and asked why the consumer was giving the woman caller a hard time. When the consumer responded "because you might be a scam," the caller hung up.

"The Social Security Administration is not contacting consumers and requesting their personal information," Corbett said. "Moreover, the federal agency is not issuing mandatory new cards to senior citizens or any U.S. residents for that matter."

Investigators with the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection said in scams of this nature, con artists typically focus on one area code at a time and will potentially contact consumers in every area code block across the state within a few days.

Corbett urged consumers to contact the Bureau of Consumer Protection if they have received a call from anyone claiming to be from the Social Security Administration seeking personal information. Consumers can call toll free at 1-800-441-2555.

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Anyone who may have released the information to callers should contact their bank or financial institution immediately and then notify the following credit bureaus to request that a fraud watch be placed on their account: Equifax - 1-800-997-2493; Experian Information Solutions - 1-888-397-3742; TransUnion - 1-800-916-8800.

Consumers are also urged to contact their local police department and file a complaint online with the Office of Attorney General by visiting [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov).

**BUCKS COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST OLDER ADULTS TASK FORCE-**  
**FIGHTING ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION OF OLDER ADULTS IN BUCKS COUNTY**

Bucks County District Attorney's Office  
215-348-6344

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging  
215-348-0510

Bucks County Consumer Protection  
215-348-6060

Network of Victim Assistance  
1-800-675-6900

Bucks County Register of Wills  
215-348-6265

Bucks County Coroner  
215-348-3852