

FRAUD ALERT!

Scams Related to the Economic Stimulus Payment

The Internal Revenue Service has begun to transfer economic stimulus payments to millions of Americans, some of whom will see payments in their bank accounts as early as today. Some scam artists are trying to trick individuals into revealing personal financial information that can be used to access their financial accounts by making promises relating to the economic stimulus payment, often called a “rebate.”

Some criminals posing as IRS representatives are trying to trick taxpayers into revealing their personal financial information by falsely telling them they must provide information to get a payment. For instance, a potential victim is told by phone or e-mail that he or she is eligible for a rebate but must provide a bank account number (or similar information) to get the payment. If the target is unwilling, the victim is then told that he cannot receive the rebate unless the information is provided.

Individuals should remember that the only way to get a stimulus payment is to file a 2007 tax return. The IRS urges taxpayers to be extra-vigilant. **The IRS will not contact taxpayers by phone or e-mail about their stimulus payment.**

Information about the Stimulus Payment

- To obtain the payment, eligible individuals in most cases will not have to do anything more than file a 2007 federal tax return.
- Whether a taxpayer opted for direct deposit determines how soon the payment will arrive. The first cycle of paper checks will be mailed starting May 9.
- The IRS will send notices to taxpayers who have already filed a 2007 tax return and who are eligible for an economic stimulus payment. This notice will serve as an important recordkeeping document and should be retained by taxpayers.
- Some taxpayers may receive smaller economic stimulus payments than they anticipated. By law, the stimulus payments are offset to satisfy past-due taxes, student loans, child support and certain other debts.

If you have any questions, please contact the Task Force members below. Always remember this simple rule, NEVER give your personal information over the phone or via email. When in doubt, hang up or delete!

<u>BUCKS COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST OLDER ADULTS TASK FORCE</u>	
<u>FIGHTING ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION OF OLDER ADULTS IN BUCKS COUNTY</u>	
Bucks County District Attorney's Office	Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
215-348-6344	215-348-0510
Bucks County Consumer Protection	Network of Victim Assistance
215-348-6060	1-800-675-6900
Bucks County Register of Wills	Bucks County Coroner
215-348-6265	215-348-3852