

Important News for Social Security Recipients

Public Warned About Social Security Scam

The Social Security Administration (SSA) issued a warning on Tuesday about a new e-mail scam that has surfaced recently. The Agency has received several reports of an e-mail message being circulated with the subject "Cost-of-Living for 2007 update" and purporting to be from SSA. The message provides information about the 3.3 percent benefit increase for 2007 and contains the following: "NOTE: We now need you to update your personal information. If this is not completed by November 11, 2006, we will be forced to suspend your account indefinitely." The reader is then directed to a website designed to look like Social Security's Internet website. Once directed to the phony website, the individual is asked to register for a password and to confirm his/her identity by providing personal information such as the individual's Social Security number, bank account information and credit card information. SSA Inspector General Patrick O'Carroll recommends that people never provide their Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless they are extremely confident of the source to whom they are providing that information. To report receipt of this e-mail message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General (OIG), please call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the OIG TTY number at 1-866-501-2101). A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's website www.socialsecurity.gov/oig.

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