

Inspector General Warns About New Social Security Benefit Suspension Scam

Posted on **March 27, 2020** by **Gail S. Ennis, Inspector General for Social Security**



Today, I am warning the public about fraudulent letters threatening suspension of Social Security benefits due to COVID-19 or coronavirus-related office closures. Social Security will not suspend or discontinue benefits because their offices are closed.

The Social Security Office of the Inspector General has received reports that Social Security beneficiaries have received letters through the U.S. Mail stating their payments will be suspended or discontinued unless they call a phone number referenced in the letter. Scammers may then mislead beneficiaries into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet

currency, or by mailing cash, to maintain regular benefit payments during this period of COVID-19 office closures.

As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020, local Social Security offices are closed to the public due to COVID-19 concerns. However, Social Security employees continue to work. Social Security will not suspend or decrease Social Security benefit payments or Supplemental Security Income payments due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Any communication you receive that says Social Security will do so is a scam, whether you receive it by letter, text, email, or phone call.

Social Security will never:

- Threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.

- Require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card.
- Demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
- Send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

If you receive a letter, text, call or email that you believe to be suspicious, about an alleged problem with your Social Security number, account, or payments, hang up or do not respond. We encourage you to report Social Security scams using our dedicated [online form](#). Please share this information with your friends and family, to help spread awareness about Social Security scams.

Learn about Social Security services during the COVID-19 pandemic, by visiting our [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) page](#).

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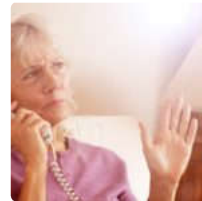
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About Gail S. Ennis, Inspector General for Social Security

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23 THOUGHTS ON “INSPECTOR GENERAL WARNS ABOUT NEW SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT SUSPENSION SCAM”



Tony
on [March 27, 2020 at 1:48 pm](#) said:

Finally they stopped them!!!! We're do I get live assistance so I can get my pay



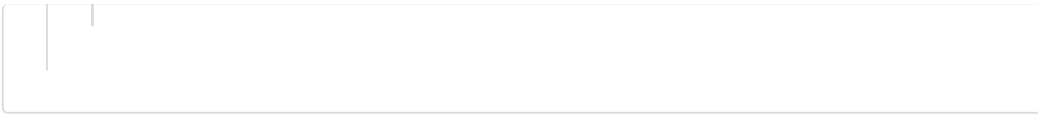
tony
on [March 27, 2020 at 3:08 pm](#) said:

After Congress and the President pass the stimulus bill, don't be surprised if the scammers start calling to say you have been approved for a stimulus check and they need to verify your personal information in order to mail out a check.



tony
on [March 27, 2020 at 3:30 pm](#) said:

Greedy and senile senior citizens will fall for the stimulus check when it comes out soon. They don't know that they won't receive a stimulus check unless the files a 2018 tax return. They wonder why they haven't received a check yet and fall for the scam. The scammers will claim to be the IRS or Social Security Administration and needs to verify their personal information before they mail out the check.



Vincent Restaino
on **March 27, 2020 at 1:49 pm** said:

Well we receive a stimulus to



tony
on **March 27, 2020 at 2:58 pm** said:

The stimulus is a scam. People on SSI will not receive any stimulus. Most of the people on Social Security will not receive any stimulus unless they have \$2500 worth of qualifying income to file a tax return. Don't expect a stimulus check in a few weeks unless you filed a 2018 tax return. Almost everyone on Social Security won't get a stimulus check in a few weeks. Trump says Americans will get a check, while the Republicans say taxpayers will get a check. I guess people on Social Security aren't Americans to Trump because we don't pay taxes and are not getting a check in a few weeks.



Carmen Olivieri
on **March 27, 2020 at 1:49 pm** said:

Thank you for sending us this alert. It is easy in these chaotic times to be fooled even when we know that the wretched scammers are continuously inventing new ways to bilk innocent folks of their money. Sad times!



Jimmy Maguire
on **March 27, 2020 at 1:54 pm** said:

Thank you 😊



Alfredo Cabrera

on **March 27, 2020 at 1:59 pm** said:

Thank you much for really , really help ! Help peopel who really really need your help ! Thank you very very much !



Henry L Madison Sr

on **March 27, 2020 at 2:09 pm** said:

Will I get stimulus check



Sharon Paul

on **March 27, 2020 at 2:44 pm** said:

I am grateful for all that Social Security does and I sincerely appreciate every person who is still working [hospitals, grocery stores, pharmacies, dispensaries, etc.] to make our lives tolerable during this (preventable) time.

If only the Pandemic Response Team hadn't been disbanded in 2017 and the CDC defunded. Now, it's the EPA! So, if we don't die from rump's disease, we'll die from rich businesses polluting our air!!!

I hope everyone stays safe & healthy. The only way to happiness is humility ~ NOT "pride" and caring for ALL other people.

SHALOM

[The LOVE of PEACE]



Bob Schauer

on **March 27, 2020 at 3:54 pm** said:

The Pandemic response team was NOT disbanded in 2017. It was moved into a different agency and renamed. You really

shouldn't listen to everything you read or hear without doing some research first. And the CDC budget was not "cut", but increased every year under the Trump administration. Those are simply false stories circulated by anti-Trumpers. However you feel about Trump, you have to go by facts, not wishful-hating.



Charlie
on [March 27, 2020 at 2:10 pm](#) said:

Thank you, for let's us know about this new way to scamming, innocent people, specially elders or little speaking English retirees.



Ronda Smith
on [March 27, 2020 at 2:10 pm](#) said:

Yes Its Been Happening To Me Scammers Please Tell Me Where I Can Get Food Toilet Paper And Things We Need To Stay In The HOUSE. I Cant Stay Off The Toilet Been Feeling Weak. Cant Stand Cook Food Havent Eat In Days. Will We Get This Check Everyone Is Talking About. It Would Help Out Water Bill Getting Turned Off Dont Have My Co Pays For My Much Needed Mefications. My Doctor Jay Olsson Hasnt Been Paid. I Was Hit In Car Wreck He Was Not A Part Of Treatment For Car Wreck I Need To Call INSPECTOR GENERAL THE LAWYER CASHED A CHECK IN MY NAME FROM GEICO CLOSED CASE ALL MONEYS GONE.



AMADU L SESAY
on [March 27, 2020 at 2:14 pm](#) said:

i received a call yesterday 3/23/20 telephone # 718-458-1486 telling me Con Ed is coming to my house and disconnect my electricity for unpaid bill and ask me if i

want to be directed to a payment center to make my payment And reply was ask ConEd to come im waiting and they hang up



David É Alexander
on [March 27, 2020 at 2:17 pm](#) said:

Thanks. Will we receive a increase in SS because of the Covid-19.



Lucinda G Clements
on [March 27, 2020 at 2:17 pm](#) said:

I have been fighting with Social Security for 15 years trying to get my income put back on my record, I have been thrown out of the Gainesville office by a Blonde woman who told me we will NEVER put your income back on your record. I am 62 and she said tough luck. I told her I had been working since I was 14, she said oh well sorry. Now this is a LOT of income over 55 and 65k for at least 5 years. How do I get this fixed?



Vonda VanTil, Public Affairs Specialist
on [March 27, 2020 at 2:44 pm](#) said:

Hi Lucinda. For your security, we do not have access to private information in this venue. We ask that members in our Blog community work with our offices with specific questions. You can call us at 1-800-772-1213, Monday through Friday, between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., for assistance or you can contact your local Social Security office. Please look for the general inquiry telephone number at the [Social Security Office Locator](#). The number may appear under Show Additional Office Information.



Sandra

 on **March 27, 2020 at 2:18 pm** said:

Thank you. So now the scanners are writing letters. I can watch out for extended family and the neighbors.



Rachel

on **March 27, 2020 at 2:29 pm** said:

Thank you for posting this information. I, have been tortured by people calling me saying that my Social Security number has fraudulent activity against it, and I need to call a certain number. I also have had calls from the same person numerous times telling me the same thing. I just hang up, but they call and call. Finally, I do not even answer. They usually have a 202-247area code & prefix, but not always!

Please keep us informed of things like this. It is very helpful, especially in these times. I only wish they could be caught and prosecuted!



joao jose dos santos

on **March 27, 2020 at 2:47 pm** said:

e nao mandei feixa nada de previdencia neuma alguem esta por traz disso ai esse meu recado pedir alguem para libera previdencia social para q o povo tenha acesso seus pagementoe em bancos procure sabe com direçao da empresas e avisa q eu pedi para fazer a abertura da previdencia social aqui onde estou esta essa onda eu nao sei quem esta por traz disso nao e cabe vcs pedir para abertura da previdencia q a quero nao dei ordem de nada nada , (<https://github.com/fty49jb19/eletrow> cash eletrow cash) acho q a alguem operando parte de empresas faixadas do innss veja para mim tambem aqui no brasil tem alguem operando aqui um ministro do governo operou essa operação sem ordem minhas no brasil e veja quem esta de chave com brasil e ordem para abri previdencia para pagar as pessoas ,



joao jose dos santos

 on **March 27, 2020 at 2:51 pm** said:

alguem ai q tenha compentencia pedir para abri previdencia social para povo e ordem no brasil tambem alguem do governo aqui no brasil enplatou uma ordem de pagamento pelo aplicativo alegando coronavirus eu quero q seja dada ordem para reabrir previdencia pagamento do aposentados pobrema todo q alguem que me encrimina nao mandei feicha nada repasse para mim o comentario publica por favor e muito enportante ,



Vonda VanTil, Public Affairs Specialist

on **March 27, 2020 at 2:57 pm** said:

Hi Joao. For information in Spanish, please visit us at <http://www.segurosocial.gov/>, <http://www.facebook.com/segurosocial>, or <http://www.twitter/segurosocial>. Thanks!



Theresa scroggins

on **March 27, 2020 at 3:00 pm** said:

Thanks. Will we receive a increase in SS because of the Covid-19.