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due a 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase of their Social Security ...

Jul. 20, 2017



The Acting Inspector General of Social Security, Gale Stallworth Stone, is warning citizens about a new Social Security Administration (SSA) employee impersonation scheme.

SSA and its Office of the Inspector General (OIG) have recently alerted citizens about an [OIG employee impersonation scheme](#) and a scheme targeting [former clients of Kentucky disability attorney Eric Conn](#); the agencies are now receiving reports from

citizens across the country about other phone calls from an individual posing as an

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or their personal information including their name, date of birth, Social Security number (SSN), parents' names, etc. to receive the increase. If the impersonator is successful in acquiring this information, they use it to contact SSA and request changes to the victim's direct deposit, address, and telephone information.

SSA employees occasionally contact citizens by telephone for customer-service purposes, but they will not request sensitive personal information from a citizen over the phone. If a person receives a similar suspicious call from someone alleging to be from SSA, citizens may report that information to the OIG at 1-800-269-0271 or online via <https://oig.ssa.gov/report>.

Acting Inspector General Stone continues to warn citizens to be cautious, and to avoid providing information such as your SSN or bank account numbers to unknown persons over the phone or internet unless you are certain of who is receiving it. "You must be very confident that the source is the correct business party, and your information will be secure after you release it," Stone said.

If a person has questions about any communication—email, letter, text or phone call—that claims to be from SSA or the OIG, please contact your local Social Security office, or call Social Security's toll-free customer service number at 1-800-772-1213, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, to verify its legitimacy. (Those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can call Social Security's TTY number at 1-800-325-0778.)

Payroll

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