

Social Security Notifications

The BBB warns consumers to be aware of a number of solicitations in the form of telephone calls, emails, and official looking letters designed to look like Social Security Administration notifications. The requests for information vary. However, the most common requests involve consumers being asked to provide personal data such as their social security numbers, driver licenses, name changes upon marriage, and bank account numbers.

Consumers should note that these requests may not be directly from the Social Security Administration. Instead they may be from third party solicitors who learn of name changes from public records. Consumers are encouraged to not give out any personal information until they have verified that the request for information is legitimate.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) states that if a third party organization outside of the SSA would like to reproduce an SSA form, the organization must receive written approval from SSA prior to reproducing the form.

Section 1140(a)(2) of the Social Security Act provides as follows:

"No person may, for a fee, reproduce, reprint, or distribute any item consisting of a form, application, or other publication of the Social Security Administration unless such person has obtained specific, written authorization for such activity in accordance with regulations which the Commissioner of Social Security shall prescribe."

Consumers needing to update/request forms should be aware that the do-it-yourself procedure to renew forms is available directly on the Social Security Administration's website at www.ssa.gov. Consumers never have to pay for an SSA form. All SSA forms are free to the public.

Consumers can also visit their local Social Security Administration Office in person, or call the toll-free number 1-800-772-1213 to speak to a representative and obtain the forms they need.