



Scam of the Month—May 2009

Beware of Stimulus Package Scams



Under the 2009 stimulus package programs, Social Security recipients may receive a \$250 check from the U.S. government. Because of this, seniors are being targeted for a new type of scam.

The Scam: In one scam a con artist calls, emails or sends a letter on fraudulent government letterhead to a senior and falsely claims to be from the Internal Revenue Service or the Social Security Administration. The scammer asks for personal information such as the recipient's Social Security number, bank account or credit card number in order to deposit the stimulus payment. The scammer then cleans out the victim's bank account or runs up credit card charges.

In other cases, the scammer asks for a small "processing fee" in order for the recipient to receive the much larger stimulus check.

Action to take: In reality, seniors don't need to do anything to receive their \$250 payment. For those having their Social Security checks automatically deposited each month, the payment will also be automatically deposited. This will probably happen in May and the government is sending out notices to this effect. Disbursements are predicted to be completed by June 4, 2009.

If you suspect fraud: Contact the Social Security Administration and your bank immediately.

Source: National Council on Aging and Recovery.gov
The Recovery.gov website has a web page with links to report stimulus fraud and scam attempts. www.recovery.gov

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).
Questions, comments or suggestions? Write to us at scams@councilonaging-midtn.org or call 615-353-4235.
