

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15

Every year, an estimated five million (one in 10) older Americans experience elder abuse, neglect or exploitation. Throughout June, communities, seniors, caregivers, governments, organizations and the private sector are uniting to increase awareness about elder abuse.

At the Allegheny County District Attorney's office, Senior Justice Advocates travel throughout the county to provide valuable information about abuse like scamming and fraud, which can help to prevent older adults from becoming victims. Their Fraud Squad Alert will focus on Social Security scams because they are widespread in Allegheny County. According to the June 2021 Social Security Information Package, scammers use sophisticated tactics to deceive you into providing sensitive information or money. The scammers may text or email photos of the fake badges to convince potential victims of their legitimacy.

If you receive a suspicious letter, text, email or call, hang up or do not respond. Social Security will never:

- Text or email images of an employee's official government identification.
- Suspend your Social Security number.
- Threaten you with arrest or other legal action unless you immediately pay a fine or fee.
- Require payment by retail gift card, wire transfer, internet currency, or cash by mail.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Send official letters or reports containing your personal information via email.

Social Security only sends text messages if you have opted in to receive them in these limited situations:

- When you have subscribed to receive updates and notifications by text.
- As part of enhanced security when accessing your "My Social Security" account.
- If you owe money, Social Security will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights.

For more information, contact one of these Senior Justice Advocates:

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