

# Social Security Administration

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## Monthly Information Package April 2020

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## Social Security Column

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH, A PERFECT TIME TO PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

By **Bob Simpson**

**Social Security District Manager in Traverse City**



April is Financial Literacy Month, a month focused on educating people about the importance of planning for a secure financial future. Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan, and we have online tools to help you understand your potential Social Security benefits and how they fit into your financial plans.

You should periodically review your *Social Security Statement* through your personal *my Social Security* account at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](https://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). Your *Statement* is an easy-to-read record of your earnings that determine your future benefits. You'll want to verify that your recorded earnings are correct as they affect the amount you could receive. Your *Statement* also provides a summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. The online *Statement* is paired with an interactive Retirement Calculator that allows you to run additional benefit estimate scenarios comparing how different future earnings and retirement benefit start dates affect your benefit amount.

Start focusing on your financial literacy today. Log in to your *my* Social Security account and view your *Statement*. If you don't have an account, create one at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

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## **Social Security Column**

### **BEWARE OF CALLS CLAIMING THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR ACCOUNT**

**By Bob Simpson**

**Social Security District Manager in Traverse City**



Social Security and its Office of the Inspector General continue to receive reports about fraudulent phone calls from people claiming to be Social Security employees. These scammers try to trick people into providing personal information or money, and often threaten their victims with arrest. Don't be fooled.

Our employees will never threaten you for information or promise a benefit in exchange for personal information or money. Real Social Security employees also will not:

- Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended.
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment.
- Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a prepaid debit card, a retail gift card, or cash.

- Demand that you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe.
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money.

If you receive a suspicious call or are unsure of the identity of someone who claims to be from Social Security:

- Hang up.
- Do not give money or personal information.
- Report the scam to our Office of the Inspector General at [oig.ssa.gov](https://oig.ssa.gov).

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## Social Security Column

### STAY INFORMED WITH SOCIAL SECURITY'S TOP FIVE SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

By **Bob Simpson**

**Social Security District Manager in Traverse City**



We strive to keep you informed with accurate and helpful information. In addition to information we provide on our website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), we also engage regularly on social media. We invite you to read our posts and share items of interest with your family and friends.

1. You can subscribe to our blog, *Social Security Matters*. We post up-to-date columns about programs, policy, current topics, and new online services. Read more and subscribe at [blog.socialsecurity.gov](http://blog.socialsecurity.gov).
2. You can follow us on Facebook and repost our articles at [www.facebook.com/socialsecurity](http://www.facebook.com/socialsecurity).
3. We have a number of informative videos on YouTube. Our diverse collection of videos covers online services, applying for retirement and disability benefits, Social Security scams, and much more. We offer some of our videos in Spanish as well. You can view and easily share our videos at [www.youtube.com/SocialSecurity](http://www.youtube.com/SocialSecurity).

4. You can join our many Twitter followers at [www.twitter.com/socialsecurity](http://www.twitter.com/socialsecurity). There, we announce new *my Social Security* features and other service or program changes.
5. Our newest social media outlet is our Instagram account. We share stories and resources that can help you and your loved ones. Check out our Instagram page at [www.instagram.com/SocialSecurity](http://www.instagram.com/SocialSecurity).

Connect with us on social media to learn helpful information. Follow along and share our pages with a friend, neighbor, or loved one today. Take a look at all our social media channels at [www.socialsecurity.gov/socialmedia](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/socialmedia).

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## Social Security Column

### HOW TO CHANGE YOUR NAME ON YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

By **Bob Simpson**

**Social Security District Manager in Traverse City**



A Social Security number is important because you need it to work, collect Social Security benefits, and receive certain government services. The information on your Social Security card must always be up-to-date and correct.

If you legally change your name because of marriage, divorce, court order, or any other reason, you must tell us right away so you can get a corrected card. You cannot apply to change your name online.

To update your Social Security card, you need to:

- Show the required documents, including proof of your identity. Sometimes you may also need to prove your current U.S. citizenship or lawful noncitizen status. See what documents you need at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/ss5doc.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/ss5doc.htm). Under the heading, “*Type of Card,*” select “*Corrected*” for a list of the documents you need.



- Fill out and print the Application for a Social Security Card at [www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf).
- Take or mail your application and documents to your local Social Security office. You can use our field office locator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/locator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/locator)

For complete instructions, visit our webpage at [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber). You can also read the publication *Your Social Security Number and Card* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10002.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10002.pdf).

Remember, never keep your Social Security card in your wallet or purse. Keep it in a safe place to avoid identity theft.

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## Social Security Column

ON THE GO? YOU CAN STILL USE SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE WHEN TRAVELING

By **Bob Simpson**

**Social Security District Manager in Traverse City**



Social Security is here for you when you travel, whether you're in the United States or overseas. Our online services page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices) provides you a wide variety of self-service options you can use on your phone, tablet, or computer.

Through our online services, you can:

- Apply for Social Security retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits.
- Get your *Social Security Statement*.
- Request a replacement Social Security card.
- Appeal a decision.
- Find out if you qualify for benefits.

Do you receive Social Security benefits or Medicare? If so, you can create or log in to your personal *my Social Security* account to:

- Get your benefit verification letter for Social Security, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Check your information and benefit amount.
- Change your address and telephone number.
- Start or change your direct deposit.
- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.
- Report your wages if you work and receive disability benefits or SSI.

Create a personal *my* Social Security account today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) to take advantage of these easy-to-use features. Also, share our online services page with family and friends who need this important information.

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