

SEPTEMBER 2009

FRAUD ALERT!

ELDER LAW POSTCARD SCAM

It appears that there has been a resurfacing of a 2004 postcard scam targeting seniors that advertises an "Elder Law Update." The business reply mailer begins:

"Congress has legislation that standardizes entitlement provisions for persons 60 and over...." and then solicits personal information and a signature from those who request additional information from the "National Processing Center" (a similar, earlier scam included the return address of "American Senior Alliance"). **Recipients are urged to destroy the mailer and notify the postal inspectors.**

The information below is from the *Senior Journal* publication that describes the scam when it first surfaced:

“National Processing Center” Replaces “American Senior Alliance” in Suspicious Mailing to Seniors

By Tucker Sutherland, editor, SeniorJournal.com

Be wary of a mailing from the American Senior Alliance that made outlandish promises of information available about “important Elder Law changes.” Now, there is a new mailing to seniors with **more** promises and the return address is to the National Processing Center. We are reporting both to the U.S. Postal Inspectors for investigation.

The return card to request the free information asks for the sender’s signature, age, spouse’s age, county and phone number. You have to question why the personal information and signature is required.

We had suspected the mailing was a scam and this suspicion is even greater after the name of American Senior Alliance has been replaced by the National Processing Center in the new mailing. The new return address is to PMB #220, 325 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20077-1038. We suspect this is a mailing service drop box that the promoters hope senior citizens will think is a government service. Although, on the bottom of the card in small print they state, “Not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency.” The old return address was a post office box in Marietta, Georgia. The postal permit for the return postage on the original card was issued in Fort Worth, Texas, but the latest one is from Washington, D.C.

We urge you not to respond and to notify the U.S. Postal Inspectors if you receive this mailing. Watch for return addresses on the cards to either the “National Processing Center” or the “American Senior Alliance.” The mailing will look similar to the 2004 postcard scam example below.

2004 ELDER LAW UPDATE	
<p style="text-align: center;">Congress has passed NEW LEGISLATION that standardizes entitlement provisions for persons AGE 65 AND OVER.</p>	<p>These Legislative Changes Provide The Following Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Seniors may apply to completely avoid all probate and estate taxes.<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce or avoid income taxes on investments and social security.<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt assets from collection by government or nursing home if you become ill.<input type="checkbox"/> Earn double or triple interest of CD's with no risk to principal balances.<input type="checkbox"/> Pass your IRA/401k to your spouse, children and grandchildren so that it can maintain its tax-deferred status for multiple generations.
<p>For FREE hard facts and straight answers regarding how these important Elder Law changes can affect you and your heirs...complete and return this postage-paid card within 5 days! THERE IS NO COST OR OBLIGATION!</p>	
Signature _____	Address Blocked *
Your Age _____ Spouse's Age _____	
County _____	
Phone: (____) _____	
<p>NOT AFFILIATED WITH OR ENDORSED BY ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY ESTM00304</p>	

BUCKS COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST OLDER ADULTS TASK FORCE
www.crimesagainstolderadultsbucks.org
24 - HOUR HOTLINE 1-800-490-8505