

November 2009

FRAUD ALERT!

2010 Census

For years, Better Business Bureau (BBB) has educated consumers about not giving out personal information over the telephone or to anyone who shows up at their front door. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The BBB advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

Here is how you can tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you do not know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.
- While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.
- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the look out for e-mail scams impersonating the Census.
- Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

If you have any questions or concerns about the above fraud alert, please contact one of the Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force members below or to contact the Better Business Bureau directly, please call the Philadelphia Office at 215-985-9313 (24 hours / 7 days) or visit the website at www.dc-easternpa.bbb.org.

BUCKS COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST OLDER ADULTS TASK FORCE

Bucks County District Attorney's Office
215-348-6344

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
215-348-0510

Bucks County Coroner's Office
215-348-3852

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)
1-800-675-6900

A Woman's Place (AWP)
1-800-220-8116

Bucks County Office of Consumer Protection
215-348-6060

Bucks County Register of Wills
215-348-6265

**US Dept. of Health and Human Services
Investigations, Office of the Inspector General**

www.crimesaginstolderadultsbucks.org
24 - HOUR HOTLINE 1-800-490-8505