

PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 25, 2020

Contact:

Laura Turtzer

(714) 541-7734

Laura.Turtzer@ssa.ocgov.com

County of Orange Social Services Agency Warns Clients About Potential COVID-19 Scam

Clients Urged to Exercise Care if Asked for Personal Information

Orange County, Calif. (March 25, 2020) - The County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA) is warning residents to be on the lookout for potential scammers using the COVID-19 situation in order to obtain confidential client information.

The California Department of Social Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services have received reports of a potential scam targeting CalFresh food assistance program recipients. While many organizations are seeking to help communities respond to COVID-19, clients should exercise caution if asked to share confidential information.

Clients have been asked by scammers to provide personal information, including their EBT card number and PIN, Social Security number and date of birth. Please be advised this may be an attempt to gather information which may be used to withdraw funds from recipient accounts.

Clients are advised **NOT** to give out their personal information. Please remember that SSA will never ask for your personal information in a text message or via email.

If you are unsure if a request for information is legitimate, please contact the SSA call center to confirm the request at (800) 281-9799 or contact your assigned case worker if you have one.

If you have called the phone number associated with a request for personal information or responded to a text or email request and have provided personal information, it is recommended that you file a report with your local police department.

###