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The Sussex County Clerk's Office cares about its citizenry, and so whenever possible, we like to share information with our friends and neighbors that we hope will protect against potential hardship or abuse in our communities.

Recently, an article appeared in the *Star Ledger* written by Christopher Baxter, which warns seniors about yet another scam that seeks to steal information unique to an individual. The text of the article follows.

### **Seniors should be wary of phone scam seeking ID**

Senior citizens and their families were warned yesterday to be on alert for a phone scam after residents here reported calls from someone claiming to represent the Social Security Administration.

The callers claimed a "new law" required Social Security recipients to use a "special, new type" of card, the state Division of Consumer Affairs said in a statement.

In one case, the agency said, a caller read a list of banks and asked the senior citizen to identify which was hers.

The caller then read a series of numbers and asked if they matched the numbers of her checks, the release said.

"Calls like this are purely an attempt to obtain your personal and bank information in order to steal your identity. The best way to protect yourself is to hang up," Thomas Calcagni, director of Consumer Affairs, said in a statement.

Seniors should never provide personal or financial information such as a Social Security credit card or other account numbers over the phone.

Any persons who believe they have been cheated or scammed by a business, or suspect any other form of consumer abuse, can file a complaint with the Division of Consumer Affairs by visiting its website, [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov), or by calling toll-free 800-242-5846.