

provides for a program of special benefits for certain World War II veterans.

As a part of the title VIII administration, Section 807(a) of P.L. 106-169, also provides that, if the Social Security Administration determines that it is not in the best interest of the beneficiary to receive benefits directly, payments may be certified to a relative, another person or an organization interested in or concerned about the welfare of the beneficiary. These individuals or organizations are called representative payees.

2. *Annual Earning Test—Direct Mail Follow-up Program Notices—0960-0369.* In 1997, as part of the initiative to reinvent government, SSA began to use the information reported on W-2's and self-employment tax returns to adjust benefits under the earnings test rather than have beneficiaries make a separate report, which often showed the same information. As a result, Beneficiaries under full retirement age (FRA) complete forms SSA-L9778-SM-SUP, SSA-L9779-SM-SUP and SSA-L9781-SM under this information collection.

With the passage of the "Senior Citizen" Freedom to Work Act of 2000 the annual earnings test (AET) at FRA was eliminated. As a result SSA designed 2 new Midyear Mailer Forms SSA-L9784-SM and SSA-L9785-SM to request an earnings estimate (in the year of FRA) for the period prior to the month of FRA. Social Security benefits may be adjusted based on the information provided and this information is needed to comply with the law. Consequently, the Midyear Mailer program has become an even more important tool in helping SSA to ensure that Social Security payments are correct. Respondents are beneficiaries who must update their current year estimate of earnings, give SSA an estimate of earnings for the following year and an earnings estimate (in the year of FRA) for the period prior to the month of FRA.

Number of Respondents: 225,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 37,500 hours.

3. *Student Statement Regarding School Attendance—0960-0105.* The information collected on Form SSA-1372 is needed to determine whether children of an insured worker are eligible for benefits as a student. The respondents are student claimants for Social Security benefits and their respective schools.

Number of respondents: 200,000.

Number of Response: 1.

Average burden per response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 33,333 hours.

II. The information collections listed below have been submitted to OMB for clearance. Written comments and recommendations on the information collections would be most useful if received within 30 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer and the OMB Desk Officer at the addresses listed at the end of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance packages by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him.

1. *Subpart T—State Supplementation Provisions; Agreement; Payments, 20 CFR 416.2099—0960-0240.* Section 1618 of the Social Security Act contains pass-along provisions of the Social Security amendments. These provisions require States that supplement the Federal SSI benefits pass along Federal cost-of-living increases to individuals who are eligible for State supplementary payments. If a State fails to keep payments at the required level, it becomes ineligible for Medicaid reimbursement under title XIX of the Social Security Act. Regulation at 20 CFR 416.2099 requires the States to report mandatory minimum and optional supplementary payment data to SSA. The information is used to determine compliance with the law and regulations. The respondents are States that supplement Federal SSI payments.

Number of respondents: 26.

Number of Responses: 15 states report quarterly, 11 states report annually.

Average burden per response: 1 hour.

Estimated Annual Burden: 71 hours.

2. *Application for Search of Census Records for Proof of Age—0960-0097.* The information collected on Form SSA-1535-U3 is required to provide the Census Bureau with sufficient identifying information, which will allow an accurate search of census records to establish proof of age for an individual applying for Social Security Benefits. It is used for individuals who must establish age as a factor of entitlement. The respondents are individuals applying for Social Security Benefits.

Number of respondents: 18,000.

Number of Response: 1.

Average burden per response: 12 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 3,600.

(SSA Address) Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235

(OMB Address) Office of Management and Budget, OIRA, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Office Building, Room 10230, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503

Dated: August 16, 2000.

Nicholas E. Tagliareni,

Director, Center for Publications

Management, Social Security Administration.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Public Workshop: Identity Theft Prevention

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

ACTION: Initial Notice Requesting Public Comment and Announcing Public Workshop.

SUMMARY: The Social Security Administration (SSA), Office of the Inspector General (OIG), will hold a public workshop to identify relevant issues and examine potential solutions to prevent identity theft. This notice seeks public comments to inform the discussion that will take place at the workshop.

DATES: October 25, 2000, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Written comments and requests to participate as panelist in the workshop must be submitted on or before September 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The Identity Theft Workshop will be held in Washington, D.C., at the Department of Health and Human Services Cohen Building, 330 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS: Comments should be captioned "Identity Theft Prevention Workshop." Comments may be submitted in writing or on diskette in Microsoft Word (please specify version). Mail written comments to Judy Ringle, Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General, 300 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235. As an alternative to paper submissions, comments may be sent through electronic mail, in Microsoft Word format, to: judy.ringle@ssa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judy Ringle, Attorney, Office of the Inspector General, Office of the Counsel to the Inspector General, Social Security Administration, 300 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, (410) 966-6906. For information on eligibility, claiming

benefits, or coverage of earnings, call our national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Type of Meeting: This meeting is open to the public.

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting is to identify the means to prevent identity theft in governmental and private transactions. Identity theft is on the rise. The illegal use of Social Security numbers (SSNs) and other means of identification by individuals who seek to profit from the illegal use of another's identification has increased exponentially in recent years. In Fiscal Year 1999 alone, the SSA OIG Fraud Hotline received approximately 62,000 allegations involving SSN misuse. Specifically, 32,000 allegations had SSN misuse implications involving SSA programs and an additional 30,000 allegations represented SSN misuse with no direct program implications. These are very concerning statistics.

It is imperative that SSNs remain secure with the individual SSN holder. However, the proliferate use of the SSN as an identifier not only by private entities and corporations, but also by medical providers and government entities, reduces the security of SSNs and increases the likelihood of illegal SSN use for purposes of committing identity theft. The expansion and popularity of the Internet to effect commercial transactions has increased the opportunities to commit crimes involving identity theft. At the same time, the expansion and popularity of the Internet to post official information for the benefit of citizens and customers has increased opportunities to obtain SSNs for illegal purposes.

While accurate means of identification are a necessity for commercial and private entities, medical providers and governmental entities, as well as individuals, when such means of identification are subject to misuse and fraud, it is of little use to those who need it most.

How to decrease the opportunity for disclosure and misuse of SSNs will be the subject of this workshop. The competing interests of individuals, concerned with irresponsible SSN disclosure and criminal SSN misuse, must be balanced against the legitimate needs of medical providers, law enforcement and other governmental entities, and commercial establishments to maintain clearly identifiable records.

To inform the SSA OIG prior to the workshop, we are seeking views on this subject from industry representatives, consumer representatives, the academic community, and the larger public from

the United States and other countries, including views on the elements of fair and effective methods of victim assistance and remediation. Views are welcome on any aspect of this subject.

Dated: August 10, 2000.

James G. Huse, Jr.,

Inspector General of Social Security.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Privacy Act of 1974 as amended; Computer Matching Program (SSA/Texas Workers Compensation Commission) Match Number 1092

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of computer matching program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act, as amended, this notice announces a computer matching program that SSA plans to conduct with Texas Workers Compensation Commission.

DATES: SSA will file a report of the subject matching program with the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives, and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The matching program will be effective as indicated below.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may comment on this notice by either telefax to (410) 966-2935 or writing to the Associate Commissioner, Office of Program Support, 2-Q-16 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401. All comments received will be available for public inspection at this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Associate Commissioner for Program Support as shown above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. General

The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Public Law (Pub. L.) 100-503), amended the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) by describing the manner in which computer matching involving Federal agencies could be performed and adding certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving Federal benefits. Section 7201 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-508) further amended the Privacy Act regarding protections for such

individuals. The Privacy Act, as amended, regulates the use of computer matching by Federal agencies when records in a system of records are matched with other Federal, State, or local government records.

It requires Federal agencies involved in computer matching programs to:

- (1) Negotiate written agreements with the other agency or agencies participating in the matching programs;
- (2) Obtain the Data Integrity Boards' approval of the match agreements;
- (3) Furnish detailed reports about matching programs to Congress and OMB;
- (4) Notify applicants and beneficiaries that their records are subject to matching; and
- (5) Verify match findings before reducing, suspending, terminating, or denying an individual's benefits or payments.

B. SSA Computer Matches Subject to the Privacy Act

We have taken action to ensure that all of SSA's computer matching programs comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act, as amended.

Dated: August 16, 2000.

Susan M. Daniels,

Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs.

Notice of Computer Matching Program, Texas Workers Compensation Commission (TWCC) With the Social Security Administration (SSA)

A. Participating Agencies

SSA and Texas Workers Compensation Commission (TWCC)

B. Purpose of the Matching Program

The purpose of this pilot matching program is to identify Title II and/or Title XVI recipients who are receiving workers compensation benefits. This pilot will facilitate the identification of changes in workers compensation benefits and status, thereby ensuring efficient and accurate processing of entitlement and post eligibility workloads.

C. Authority for Conducting Matching Program

Section 205(a) and 1631 (e)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act.

D. Categories of Records and Individuals Covered by the Matching Program

On the basis of certain identifying information, TWCC will provide SSA with electronic files containing workers compensation records.

SSA will then match the TWCC data with beneficiary information