



## Inspector General Warns Public About Fraudulent Phone Calls Threatening Arrest or Legal Action.

**T**he Acting Inspector General (IG) of Social Security, Gale Stallworth Stone, is urging citizens to remain vigilant of telephone impersonation schemes that exploit the Social Security Administration's (SSA) reputation and authority.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) continues to receive reports from across the country about fraudulent phone calls from people claiming to be from the SSA. Recent reports have indicated that unknown callers are using increasingly threatening language in these calls. The callers state, due to improper or illegal activity with a citizen's Social Security number (SSN) or account, a citizen will be arrested or face other legal action if they fail to call a provided phone number to address the issue.

This is a scam; citizens should not engage with these calls or provide any personal information. SSA employees do contact citizens, generally those who have ongoing business with SSA, by telephone for customer-service purposes. However, SSA employees will never threaten you for information; they will not state that you face potential arrest or other legal action if you fail to provide information. In those

cases, the call is fraudulent, and you should just hang up.

"Unfortunately, scammers will try anything to mislead and harm innocent people, including scaring them into thinking that something is wrong with their Social Security account and they might be arrested," Stone said. "I encourage everyone to remain watchful of these schemes and to alert family members and friends of their prevalence. We will continue to track these scams and warn citizens, so that they can stay several steps ahead of these thieves." The OIG recently warned that some of these impersonation calls have "spoofed" SSA's national customer service phone number, displaying 1-800-772-1213 as the incoming number on caller ID.

The Acting Inspector General urges citizens to be extremely cautious, and to avoid providing information such as your SSN or bank account numbers to unknown persons over the phone or internet unless you are certain of who is receiving it. If you receive a suspicious call from someone alleging to be from the SSA, you should report that information to the OIG at 1-800-269-0271 or online at [oig.ssa.gov/report](http://oig.ssa.gov/report).

### *In This Issue*

**Inspector General Warns Public About Fraudulent Phone Calls Threatening Arrest or Legal Action.**

**Why Hire a Disability Attorney?**

**Jan Dils Blog: How the Social Security Administration Defines Disability**

**What's Cooking: Buffalo Chicken Pasta**



## Letter From Jan

impacting even the most educated populations. Please read this article and be careful about willingly giving information.

Our first topic is something we have discussed before but continue to get ongoing communications from the Attorney General to share with our clients (and you to share with your family members). Scams to retrieve Social Security Numbers (SSN) and banking account information are becoming increasingly sophisticated.

While seniors are often targeted for the higher percentage of fraud, many of these plots are seeping into the mainstream,

The next article is about building trust with our clients. Sadly, the reality is that, because of bureaucracy, the odds are against a person applying for Social Security Disability. But that's why we are here. We provide a service to assist the underdogs. Know that we are caring professionals. We always give a free consultation and will be honest with you – our trusted client – about the process and outcome.

We put you first.

Sincerely,

**JAN DILS** brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. While her knowledge spans the critical areas pertaining to Personal Injury, Veterans' benefits, Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims, her practice remains focused on people, making sure you get the right answers and, above all, results.



## OFFICE INBOX

In January, **Abby Chichester**, Social Security Work Up Specialist, got engaged. Congratulations, Abby!

**Molly Hearn** and **Maddie Hellein** have joined our team as new Medical Records Specialists; **Chrissy Bailey** is our new Medical Clerk Specialist; **Brianna Shelton** joins as Mail/Scanning Specialist; and **Cindy Carper**, **Gregory Watkins** and **Angel Carpenter** are new Social Security Lead & Intake Specialists. We also welcome **Chelsea Gore** and **Hayden Conley** as new receptionists.

Internal, **Stephanie Copen** and **Sarah Romans** have moved to Case Development as Work Up Specialists.

## COMMUNITY CORNER



Out with the old, in with the new! December 8, 2018, we celebrated another year of hard work at our annual holiday party. This year the event was held at the Parkersburg Arts Center on Market Street in downtown Parkersburg. Team members and their families gathered for a night of food, fun and dancing. 2019 is also our 25th Anniversary. Cheers to all.

## Employee Spotlight

### NANCY FLANDERS

Nancy Flanders is a Post-Hearing Appeals Specialist. She has been with the firm for more than 10 years. When Nancy started at Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, she was the only Appeals Specialist. She now specializes in processing solely the post-hearing appeals for our Social Security Disability line of business.

“My favorite part about our firm is the team atmosphere,” says Nancy. “I love seeing the commitment that our team has to helping our clients.”

Nancy lives in Williamstown, West Virginia, with her two dogs. She has two lovely daughters; her daughter, Kelsey, just moved to Texas, and Tiffany resides in Ohio. In her free time, Nancy enjoys spending time with her friends and family.

Nancy is a treasure. We are pleased to look back in awe of her decade of work and countless wonderful outcomes due to her dedication to our clients. Thank you, Nancy!



# Why Hire a Disability Attorney?

**SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY** lawyers get paid only if you win. Statistically, having a lawyer significantly increases your chances of winning benefits. You're actually at an unfair disadvantage if you apply for benefits or appeal without an attorney's help, because you probably won't know all of the intricate rules Social Security applies and the complex strategies disability lawyers use to show their clients can't work.

## Professionalism and Courtesy

When you call a potential attorney, pay attention to the level of professionalism and treatment you are given by the attorney and staff. Even though disability firms are generally busy places, you should still receive timely callbacks and be given the chance to ask questions.

## Attorney Access

Don't be put off if you can't speak to the attorney the first time you call, or if you are asked to speak to a staff member for help with a question. This is because experienced disability attorneys spend most of their time in hearings and rely on their staff to field calls. However, a good firm should allow you to schedule a free consultation with the attorney.

## Promises of Outcomes

It is unethical, and unfair to you, for an attorney to guarantee that she or he will get you approved. A good attorney will give you an honest assessment of your case only after reviewing the facts. Know that some



claims may be more challenging to win because of the medical condition on which they are based. This can be especially true if a claimant suffers from mental illness along with drug or alcohol abuse. If this is your situation, ask your attorney about her or his approach to these types of cases and the success rate for winning them. At Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, we offer 25 years of experience. We use these newsletters to share information, but also to give you some insight into our team and our commitment to developing a culture of caring. If you are getting the runaround, never hesitate to give us a call at 877-JANDILS or visit JanDils.com.

Source: [www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/how-find-good-disability-lawyer.html](http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/how-find-good-disability-lawyer.html)

## What's Cooking?

# Buffalo Chicken Pasta

A little savory, a lot comfort food, this delicious recipe is from **Lisa Stanley**, Social Security Medical Records and Case Development Team Leader. Lisa's pods love to celebrate birthdays, hitting goals, holidays, or really any reason for a potluck!

## INGREDIENTS

8 oz. – Two cups of uncooked penne pasta (or substitute cooked cauliflower)

One 8 oz. package of cream cheese, softened

¾ cup ranch dressing

1/3 cup of hot sauce

2 cups of shredded, cooked chicken (rotisserie or canned)

1½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese

½ cup shredded cheddar cheese

Green onions, for garnish



**DIRECTIONS:** Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spray an eight-inch casserole dish with nonstick spray. Cook the pasta noodles according to the package directions. Drain and drizzle lightly with olive oil. Stir together the cream cheese, ranch and hot sauce until creamy. Add the chicken, ½ cup of mozzarella cheese, and cooked pasta noodles to the cream cheese mixture and stir to combine. Spoon into the prepared dish. Combine the remaining two cheeses and sprinkle over the top of the pasta. Bake for 20 minutes or until cheese on top is melted. Remove and serve immediately with green onions, hot sauce and ranch drizzles. Serves six.

## IT'S GAME TIME

### COMMONYMS

#### What's a commonym you ask?

A commonym is a group of words that have a common trait in the three words/items listed. For example: the words; A car - A tree - An elephant... they all have trunks. These will make you think!

1. Year - Address - Scrap
2. Trains - Teapots - Referees
3. Statues - Turkeys - Initials
4. A Rooster - A Barber Shop - A Beehive
5. Pick-up - Fire - 4x4
6. Jump - Swim - Three Piece
7. McDonalds - St. Louis - A Foot
8. Mud - Pot - Coconut
9. Rock - Table - Epsom
10. New - Full - Crescent

**Answers:** 1. Books 2. They have whistles 3. They're carved 4. They all have combs 5. Trucks 6. Suits 7. They all have arches 8. Pies 9. Salts 10. Moons



**2ND QUARTER / 2019**

963 Market Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101

**PERSONAL INJURY / VETERANS' BENEFITS / SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS**

Want to keep up with all the latest news or get to know us better? Like us on Facebook!



Connect with us on our social networks!  
[jandilsblog.com](http://jandilsblog.com)



*Jan Dils  
Blog*

**How the SSA Defines Disability.**

**A** crucial part of claiming benefits under either Social Security program is proving that you are severely disabled – that is, that you have a physical or mental condition that prevents you from doing any substantial "gainful activity" (work) and will last at least one year or will cause your death.

The determination of whether you are disabled leaves a lot of room for argument. The fact that your doctor may have advised you not to work, or that you feel too ill to work, does not necessarily mean that the Social Security Administration (SSA) will agree that you are disabled.

The SSA evaluates disability for both

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claims using its own medical experts and claims examiners. These decision makers use both a list of physical and mental conditions and evaluations of your "residual functional capacity" to determine whether you are disabled.

The good news is that if you are denied benefits because the SSA says you are not disabled, you have the right to an appeal. That's where our expertise comes into play.



We are celebrating our 25th anniversary of results. Call 877-JANDILS, toll-free or visit JanDils.com.