



Social Security Scam Targets McDowell Seniors

In September, McDowell Senior Center Director Weyland Prebor was contacted by a local senior that received a letter titled: McDowell County Referendum on Social Security officially conducted by The Seniors Center. The letter asks for a donation multiple times in the letter of either \$19.45 or \$22.00 and the donations need to be sent back to an address in Washington, D.C.

If you receive a similar letter you should know that this this letter does not come from the McDowell Senior Center or McDowell County Government. This letter is being sent by a private group in Washington, D.C. seeking donations for their own use. A similar letter was received by several people in Cleveland County last year that caused the North Carolina Department of Justice to issue an alert stating “Seniors and authorities in Cleveland County have reported the scam, which could be happening in other areas of the state. People who get the mailing may feel compelled to give money thinking it will help protect their Social Security benefits, and recipients could easily mistake the mailer as having been sent by their local Senior Center or county government.”

The McDowell Senior Center does do advocacy projects to support senior issues with local, state and federal representatives but has not and will not ever request money involving government advocacy. To check out a questionable mailing or report a scam, call the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at www.ncdoj.gov.