



# K a n s a s I n s u r a n c e D e p a r t m e n t

**Sandy Praeger**

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Consumer Alert!** **From Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger** ***Area Seniors Target of Latest Medicare Scam***

TOPEKA, KS – Northeast Kansas and the KC Metro Area has reported individuals receiving calls and being told Medicare cards are being replaced with a new "Medicare Lifetime Card". The individual calling already has some personal information such as social security number, date of birth, etc., and then proceeds to ask for bank account information.

Victims are told the bank information is needed so that \$389 can be withdrawn from the bank account to pay for the new card. They are also being told that after the \$389 has been deducted from the bank account, it will automatically be added back on to their Social Security check. The victims are also being told they would not be able to receive Medicare benefits until they received their Medicare Lifetime New Card. Victims are told it will take from 59 days to 3 months to get the Medicare Lifetime New Card.

Please pass this information to everyone and encourage them to report suspected Medicare fraud, abuse, and healthcare error to their local law enforcement agency or call the Kansas Insurance Department Anti-Fraud Division at 1-800-432-2484.

Final words of caution: Never give out Medicare, Social Security, or Bank account numbers to strangers. Never accept offers from door to door sales person, TV, telemarketers, or magazine ads. Never sign a blank form. And, don't be pressured to buy something "right now."

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