

Social Security Fraud Hotline
P.O. Box 17785
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

Sent electronically 17 January 2017; other supporting documentation and this letter mailed on or around that day

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request an investigation of abuse of power by Mr. Thaddeus Muething. Mr. Muething, my father, had a power-of-attorney agreement in place with my banking institution at the time, Fifth Third Bank. Although I reported this by phone on 13 January 2017, I didn't include supporting documents.

As the mailed facsimile bank statements show, from approximately May 2012 until sometime in May 2013 Mr. Muething transferred the majority of my SSDI and SSI benefits into what appears to be his own personal checking account. During this time, I was hospitalized at St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, DC. It is important to note that I was there voluntarily; I was not committed by the courts. Regardless, it appears Mr. Muething decided to take advantage of my institutionalization and help himself to benefits that were legally entitled to me. Although I don't know for certain what it was spent on, I know for a fact that Mr. Muething emphatically refused to pay my outstanding medical bills at the time, which could be an acceptable use of the funds.

I request that within 90 days of receipt (and presumed review) that the Office of the Social Security Inspector General take the following actions:

- Investigate the principal claim, that abuse occurred
- If it is determined that abuse is likely to have occurred, request an exhaustive accounting from Thad Muething to determine precisely how the monies were spent
- If monies were used improperly, that Thad Muething be required to pay back to the Social Security Administration (SSA)

Your office may be justifiably wondering why I waited so long to report this suspected abuse, and the answer is simple: Fear. As my SSI and SSDI benefits are literally the only regular financial assets to my name that permit me to pay my rent, utilities, food, transportation, and other obligations, I was terrified of being chastised by the SSA and having my own benefits terminated or suspended.

I am also worried for my father. I know that at his age, and with his disabilities, an investigation of wrongdoing will be very stressful for him. He is a licensed attorney in the state of Ohio, and a conclusive finding of mismanagement of funds, commingling of assets, or fraud by a government agency could result in disbarment. I am also concerned because I could not easily report that I was in the hospital because St. Elizabeths Hospital is a behavioral-health hospital that restricts patients' phone time. With the change in living situation affecting the amount doled out and the amount of time since this happened, I am not sure that I can reasonably expect a repayment of funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas Muething". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Muething" clearly legible.

Thomas Muething
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Tukwila, WA 98168-4367
ph: 206-420-2886