

Did You Know That The Government Is About To Do Away With Paper Checks?

It is true! Paper Social Security checks will soon be completely retired and replaced with electronic payments. Here's what you should know.....

Mandatory E-payments

In an effort to save money, the U.S. government of the Treasury recently announced that beginning March 1, 2011, all new enrollees



for Social Security, Supplemental Security

railroad retirement, and federal civil servant retirement benefits will be required to receive their payments by direct deposit either into a bank account or a Direct Express Debit Mastercard. And existing beneficiaries, who currently receive their government benefits via paper check, will have until March 1, 2013 to switch to electronic payments.

About 85% of federal benefit recipients already receive their payments electronically. Switching all beneficiaries to paperless payments is expected to save the government around \$300 million in the first five years and \$125

million the following year. It costs \$1 overall to cut and mail a check but only 10 cents for a direct deposit. The Treasury issues about 135 million benefit checks annually.

Government Debit Card

If you don't want your government benefits direct deposited in your bank account, or if you don't have a bank account that your payments can be deposited into, you'll need to get a Direct Express Debit MasterCard. This is a pre-paid debit card that was introduced by the Treasury Department in 2008 as an alternative to the 10 million or so Americans who still get a paper Social Security check each month.

How it works

With a Direct Express Debit MasterCard, your Social Security and/or other government benefits will automatically be deposited to your card's account on your payment day each month.

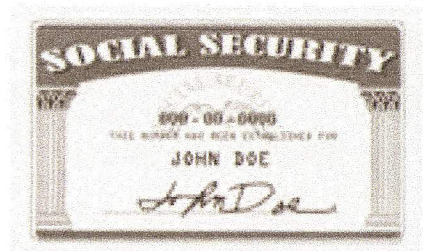
Your card can then be used to get cash from ATM's, pay bills online and over the phone, make purchases at stores or locations that accept Debit MasterCard and get ash back when you make those purchases and purchase money orders at the U.S. Post Office. The money you spend or withdraw is automatically deducted from your account.

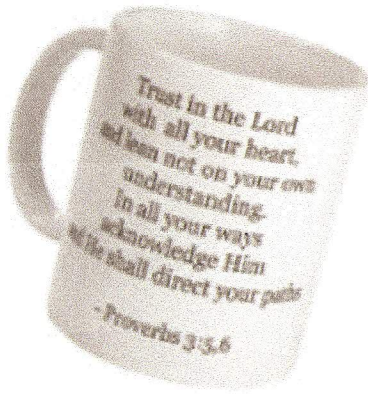
You also need to know that there's no cost to sign up for the card, no monthly fees, and no credit check required to enroll. There are, however, a few small fees for optional services you need to be aware of, like multiple ATM withdrawals. Currently, cardholders get one free ATM withdrawal per month, but additional monthly withdrawals cost 90 cents each, not including a surcharge if you use a non-network ATM.

Another important feature is security. Your card is PIN-protected, the money in your account is FDIC-insured, and if the card gets lost or stolen it will be replaced with consumer protections if it's reported promptly.

How to Sign UP

To learn more about Direct Express Debit MasterCard program or to sign up, visit usdirectexpress.com or call 877-212-9991. To sign up for Social Security direct deposit, call 800-772-1213 or go to ssa.gov/deposit.



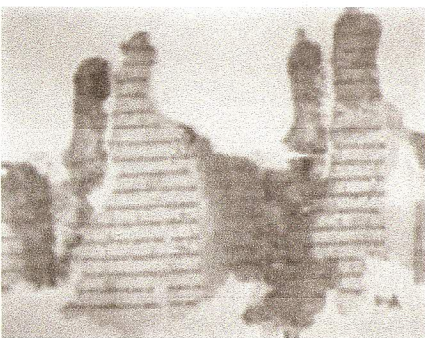


Biblical Wisdom Literature

Thursdays at 2 pm
beginning September 9th

This course surveys biblical wisdom literature by a study of important scriptural texts, including Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Song of Songs (Canticle of Canticles), Daniel, Wisdom of Solomen, and selections from the Gospels as well as from the book of Psalms.

Class will consist in 1/2 hr formal video lecture
Taught by Father Joseph W. Koterski
Fordham University
followed by 1/2 hr group discussion
led by Sr. Mary Dolores, RSM, MA



12 sessions for \$20
with ticket purchase

\$2 per class

