



## Social Security Reversed Texting Requirement

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Social Security Administration reversed its new texting requirements due to a significant number of complaints. The Social Security Administration had implemented an additional step to access My Social Security on their website on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The new step required individuals to enter a text-enabled cell phone number that can receive a text to enter one time code or would not be able to access their account. A significant number of Americans lack access to reliable cell phone service and statistics show that 25% of Americans 65 or older do not have cell phones. Many Americans were very upset with this new step and along with Senators, complained to the Social Security Administration. The Social Security Administration listened and reversed its texting requirements. "Our aggressive implementation inconvenienced or restricted access to some of our account holders," said Mark Hinkle, a Social Security Administration spokesman. "We are listening to the public's concern and are responding by temporarily rolling back this mandate. As before July 30, current account holders will be able to access their secure account using only their username and password." Text messaging does remain an option for additional security, but no longer required.

Feel free to contact United to get answers to your Social Security questions and learn more about the Social Security planning we offer.