

# SCAM ALERT

Watch out! Scammers target everyone.



## Recognize scammers. They may:

- **PRETEND** to be from an agency or organization you know.
- Say there's a **PROBLEM** or promise a prize.
- **PRESSURE** you to act immediately.
- Tell you to **PAY** in a specific way.



Do not give scammers money or personal information – Ignore them!

## How to stay safe:

- **Remain calm.** Talk to someone you trust.
- **Hang up or ignore** the message. **DO NOT** click on links or attachments.
- **Protect your money.** Criminals will insist that you pay in a hard-to-trace manner, such as with a gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, money transfer, gold bars, or by mailing cash.
- **Protect your personal information.** Be skeptical of any contact you didn't initiate.
- **Spread the word.** . Share your knowledge of Social Security-related scams with your friends, family, and community. Post on social media using the hashtag #SlamtheScam to warn others. Visit **ssa.gov/scam** for more information.



# Scammers Impersonate the Government

## You get a call, email, or text message...

- ▶ They say they're from the Social Security Administration and your benefits will end unless you pay.
- ▶ They say they're from the IRS and you owe taxes.
- ▶ They say you need to give your Medicare number to get a new card.



**STOP!**

**These are all scams.**

Government agencies won't call, email, or text you and ask for money or personal information.

Only a scammer will do that.



Report the scam to the FTC at  
**[ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov)**



**FEDERAL TRADE  
COMMISSION**





# How Scammers Try To Steal Your Life Savings

People are losing big money to scammers running complicated scams.

**Here's how the scam works:**



A scammer pretending to be from a company you know contacts you, saying they supposedly spotted fraud on one of your accounts and your money isn't safe.



They connect you with someone else to supposedly help you move your money to “protect” it.



The “helper”— who often claims to work for the government — is really a scammer trying to steal your money.

**If someone tells you to do any of these things, it's a scam.**

- “Put your money in a secure account to protect it.” **That's a scam.**
- “Transfer your money to a cryptocurrency account to protect it.” **That's a scam.**
- “Get cash and I'll send a driver to pick it up.” **That's a scam.**
- “Deposit cash at a Bitcoin ATM to protect your money.” **That's a scam.**
- “Buy gold and a driver will come get it.” **That's a scam.**

No one from the government will tell you to do these things. **Only a scammer will.**

**Never transfer or send money, cryptocurrency, cash, or gold to someone you don't know in response to an unexpected call or message.**



**FEDERAL TRADE  
COMMISSION**

More at [ftc.gov/imposters](https://ftc.gov/imposters)

Report scams to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov)

November 2024