

Stop Social Security-Related Scams

Learn the common scam characteristics

The Social Security Administration provides tools to recognize Social Security-related scams, and stop scammers from stealing your money and personal information. Share this scam information with your loved ones. Slam the scam!

Recognize the four basic signs of a scam:

1. Scammers **pretend** to be from a familiar organization or agency, like the Social Security Administration. They may email attachments with official-looking logos, seals, signatures, or pictures of employee credentials.
2. Scammers **mention a problem** or a prize. They may say your Social Security number was involved in a crime or ask for personal information to process a benefit increase.
3. Scammers **pressure** you to act immediately. They may threaten you with arrest or legal action.
4. Scammers **tell you to pay** using a gift card, prepaid debit card, or cryptocurrency; by wire or money transfer; or by mailing cash. They may also tell you to transfer your money to a “safe” account.

Social Security will never:

- Threaten arrest or legal action if someone does not immediately send money to resolve an overpayment
- Promise to increase benefits or resolve identity theft issues for a fee or by moving money into a protected account
- Require payment with a retail gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, internet currency, or by mailing cash
- Send text, email, or social media messages that contain personal information

Report a Scam: <https://secure.ssa.gov/ipff/home>

Ignore scammers and report criminal behavior. Report Social Security-related scams to the SSA Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Information provided by the Social Security Administration. Visit www.ssa.gov/scam for the latest scam tactics.