

# Protect Yourself from Social Security Scams

Be on the lookout for fake calls and emails



Securing today  
and tomorrow

Telephone and email scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Do not be fooled!

**If you receive a suspicious call:**

1. **HANG UP**
2. **DO NOT GIVE MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION**
3. **REPORT THE SCAM AT [OIG.SSA.GOV](https://www.oig.ssa.gov)**



## What to look out for



The caller says there is a **problem** with your Social Security number or account.



Any call asking you to pay a fine or debt with retail gift cards, wire transfers, pre-paid debit cards, internet currency, or by mailing cash.



Scammers **pretend** they're from Social Security or another government agency. Caller ID or documents sent by email may look official but **they are not**.



Callers threaten you with arrest or other legal action.

## Be Alert

Social Security may call you in some situations but will **never**:

- » Threaten you
- » Suspend your Social Security number
- » Demand immediate payment from you
- » Require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, or wire transfer
- » Ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to wire or mail cash



## Be Active

Protect yourself, friends, and family!

- » If you receive a questionable call, hang up and report it at [oig.ssa.gov](https://www.oig.ssa.gov)
- » Don't return unknown calls
- » Ask someone you trust for advice before making any large purchase or financial decision
- » Don't be embarrassed to report if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss
- » Learn more at [oig.ssa.gov/scam](https://www.oig.ssa.gov/scam)
- » Share this information with others