



# Beware of Phone Scams

## What is “Slam the Scam”?

The Social Security Office of the Inspector General and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Florida want you to know about widespread phone scams where callers impersonate government officials, telling you about a Social Security-related problem, to gain your trust and steal your money. We want you to hang up on scammers—help us “slam the scam”!



## What to Watch For

Social Security phone scammers may . . .

- Call to threaten you with arrest or legal action if you do not immediately pay a debt, fine, or fee.
- Claim your Social Security number has been used in committing a crime and you must send money to resolve this issue.
- Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended or offer to increase your benefits or resolve identity theft problems in exchange for payment.
- Demand payment in retail gift cards, prepaid debit cards, cashier’s checks, wire transfers, internet currency, or mailing cash.
- Demand secrecy, or tell you to make up a story to tell your friends, family, or store/bank employees.
- Send unsolicited texts to tell you about a problem with your Social Security number or benefits.
- Email you attached documents containing your personal information to convince you they are Social Security officials.

**DON’T BELIEVE THEM!**

## What to Do

- Be cautious if you receive an unsolicited call from the government and you don’t recognize the problem or issue they’re calling about.
- Don’t provide personally identifiable information over the phone.
- Double check with a trusted friend or family member.
- If you owe money to Social Security, the agency will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights.

If you receive a suspicious call:

- ✓ **HANG UP!**
- ✓ **DON’T GIVE THEM MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION!**
- ✓ **REPORT SOCIAL SECURITY SCAMS AT [OIG.SSA.GOV](http://OIG.SSA.GOV)**
- ✓ **REPORT OTHER SCAMS AT [FTC.GOV/COMPLAINT](http://FTC.GOV/COMPLAINT)**



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