



Scam Awareness



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[SSA.gov](https://www.ssa.gov)



Scam Awareness - 3 Tips to Protect Yourself

- Understand the threats.
- Exercise caution.
- Secure your information.

To report fraud, go to: oig.ssa.gov/report



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Scam Awareness & Social Security

- We do contact citizens - generally those who have ongoing business with Social Security - by telephone for customer-service purposes.
- Social Security employees will never threaten you for information; we will not state that you face potential arrest or other legal action if you fail to provide information.
- In those cases, the call is fraudulent, and you should just hang up. Don't give out any information.



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If You Suspect Fraud



Get on the National Do Not Call Registry to reduce telemarketing calls. Visit [donotcall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov) or call **888-382-1222**.

If you suspect fraud or financial exploitation, please contact the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at [oig.ssa.gov](https://www.oig.ssa.gov)

If you suspect elder abuse, call the Eldercare Locator at **1-800-677-1116** or visit [eldercare.acl.gov](https://www.eldercare.acl.gov) to connect with local reporting entities.



Learn more on the National Center on Elder Abuse website: [ncea.acl.gov](https://www.ncea.acl.gov)



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Identity Theft



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Did You Know?

There were over **6.5 million** reports of fraud, identity theft and other reports to the Federal Trade Commission in 2024.



1 in 5 people lost money in imposter scams in 2024, totaling **\$2.952 billion**.



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Examples and Impact of Identity Theft

Examples of Misuse

Opening credit cards

Opening utility accounts

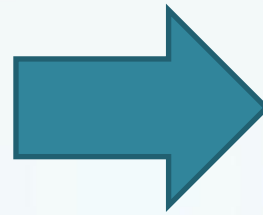
Applying for a tax refund

Getting a loan

Applying for employment

Getting medical care

Illegal use of Social Security number



Impact on Victims

Denial of credit/loans

Denial of public benefits

Denial of medical care

Harassment by debt collectors

Lawsuits

Stress/anxiety/embarrassment

Time/expenses spent on recovery steps



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Your Social Security Number (SSN)

- Social Security protects your SSN and keeps your records confidential.
- You should be careful about sharing your number, even when asked for it.
- Keep your card and other documents that show your SSN in a safe place.
- DO NOT routinely carry your card or other documents that display your number.



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What To Do Right Away

- **Step 1:** Call the companies where you know fraud occurred.
- **Step 2:** Place a fraud alert and get your credit reports.
- **Step 3:** Report identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [identitytheft.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identitytheft).

You may also choose to file a report with your local police department.



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IdentityTheft.gov

Here's how it works:



Explain what happened.

They will ask questions about your situation. Tell them as much as you can.



Get a recovery plan.

They will use that info to create a personal recovery plan.



Put your plan into action.

If you create an account, they will walk you through each recovery step, update your plan as needed, track your progress, and pre-fill forms and letters for you.



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Credit Bureaus – Contact Information

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
<p><u>equifax.com</u></p> <p>Report fraud: 1-800-525-6285</p> <p>Order a credit report: 1-800-685-1111 P.O. Box 740241 Atlanta, GA 30374-0241</p>	<p><u>experian.com</u></p> <p>Report fraud: 1-888-397-3742</p> <p>Order a credit report: 1-888-EXPERIAN (1-888-397-3742) P.O. Box 1017 Allen, TX 75013-0949</p>	<p><u>transunion.com</u></p> <p>Report fraud: 1-800-680-7289</p> <p>Order a credit report: 1-800-888-4213 Fraud Victim Assistance Department P.O. Box 6790 Fullerton, CA 92834</p>



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Fraud Resources

- Federal Trade Commission (FTC) → **1-877-382-4357**
- Tax Issues, visit [irs.gov/identity-theft-central](https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-central) or call **1-800-908-4490**
- [FTC.gov/idtheft](https://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) for prevention tips and free resources
- Contact your nearest DMV branch to report a lost or stolen driver's license: [usa.gov/state-motor-vehicle-services](https://www.usa.gov/state-motor-vehicle-services)
- Get your free credit reports at [annualcreditreport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call **1-877-322-8228**



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