

SCAM ALERT



Office of the Inspector General
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2025

Unexpected Call or Message? Think Scam First

Beware of scammers pretending to be with the **Social Security Administration (SSA)** or the **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)**.

Stay skeptical and think scam anytime you get an unexpected or unsolicited call, message, or letter.

The SSA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and **OVC** are advising the public to watch out for government imposter scams. Neither SSA nor OVC will demand money from you or threaten you with legal or criminal action if you do not pay. **Government officials and law enforcement agents will never pick up money at your door or in any type of exchange.** For example, scammers may represent themselves as SSA OIG agents and request that you meet them in person to hand off cash.

“Scammers continue to exploit fear and confusion by impersonating trusted government agencies like SSA and OVC,” said Michelle L. Anderson, Acting Inspector General for SSA. “We urge citizens to be vigilant, and to always question unexpected calls, texts, emails, or letters, and report suspected scams immediately.”

Key Warning Signs of a Scam

- Unexpected communication by phone call, text or social media message, email, or letter in the mail warning of a problem or offering a prize.
- Pressure in the form of threats, demands, or limited time offers.
- Payment requests of cash, gift cards, gold bars, prepaid debit cards, wire or money transfer, and cryptocurrency.

How to Protect Yourself

- Stop. Think scam. Talk to someone you trust before paying.
- Visit ssa.gov/scam to report Social Security-related scams and learn more.
- Stay up to date on the latest scam warnings and tactics by following SSA OIG on **X**, **Facebook**, and **LinkedIn**.
- Visit the **Federal Trade Commission** for consumer protection tips.



These Are Scams!

- Claims that a law enforcement officer will pick up payment in person.
- Offers to “protect” your money by transferring it.
- Using the real name of an official listed on a government website.
- Official looking documents or pictures.
- Requests for personal information, such as your Social Security number.
- Threats to suspend your Social Security number or arrest you.
- Demand for secrecy.



Members of the press may make inquiries to Social Security OIG at oig.press@ssa.gov

Connect with us on social media:   