

SCAM ALERT



Office of the Inspector General
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beware of Direct Deposit Offers Tied to Prizes

If someone tells you you've won a contest and asks you to change your Social Security direct deposit information to claim it, it's a scam — and it can cut off access to your benefit payments and potentially leave your bank account vulnerable to theft.

How the Scam Works

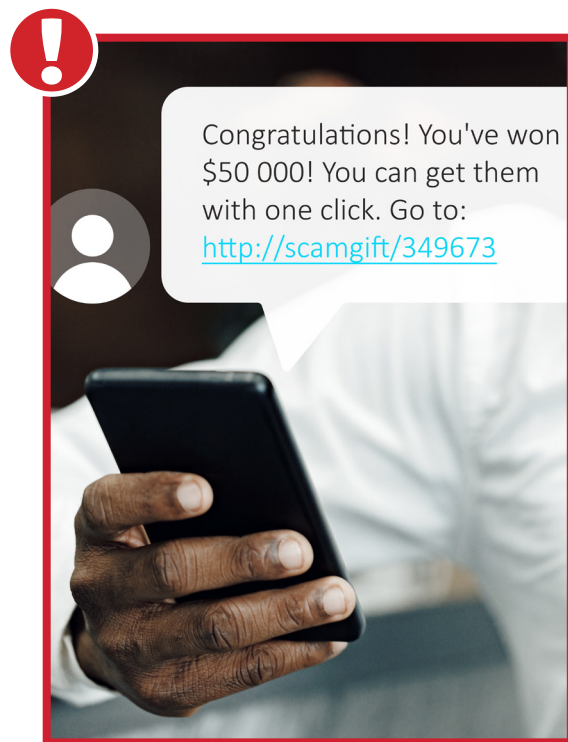
A caller says you've won a prize or contest and, to receive it, asks you to switch your Social Security direct deposit from your bank to a different account, such as a prepaid debit card. To do this, they ask for your personal and banking information. Victims have found themselves without their own Social Security payments once the deposit is redirected — and the scammer may call back and grow hostile if the victim tries to undo the change.

No legitimate contest or prize requires you to redirect a federal benefit payment to claim it. The Social Security Administration will never offer to increase your benefits in exchange for information or for a fee.

Remember

- Never change your direct deposit information because of an unsolicited call, text, or prize notification.
- Keep your Social Security and bank account information private.
- You can review and change your Social Security direct deposit information yourself, safely, through your personal **my Social Security** account at **ssa.gov/myaccount**
- If you think your direct deposit has already been changed without your permission, contact SSA immediately by calling SSA directly at **1-800-772-1213**.

Report this scam to **ssa.gov/scam**. You can also report it to the FTC at **reportfraud.ftc.gov**.



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

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