

SCAM ALERT



Office of the Inspector General
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2026



SSA Provides New and Replacement Social Security Cards for FREE!



The Social Security Administration (SSA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is reminding the public that they **DO NOT** have to pay for Social Security card-related services.

There are numerous online websites that offer Social Security card-related services for a fee. You **ARE NOT** required to use one of these services for your Social Security card-related needs.

Whether you are applying for a Social Security card for the first time for a child or yourself, because of a name change, or because you lost your card, the Social Security Administration will help you get your new or replacement Social Security card for **FREE**.

Consider creating your own personal *my Social Security* account at ssa.gov/myaccount. Depending on your situation, you may be able to apply for a replacement card online. Visit SSA's *official website* (ssa.gov/number-card) to learn more about managing your Social Security number, or call SSA at 1-800-772-1213.

Protect Yourself

Beware of scammers pretending to be from SSA or another government agency by using imposter websites and/or social media accounts designed to steal your personal information, such as your social security number, birthdate, and credit card information.

Section 1140 of the Social Security Act specifically prohibits misleading SSA-related communications and places restrictions on the charging for services that SSA provides for free. Violators can face financial penalties.

Steps to Remember

1. **Pause.** Is this a scam? If you received a call, text, email, letter, or message on social media that you were not expecting, be skeptical and think scam first.
2. **Protect.** Guard your wallet. Know the red flags of a scam. Talk to someone you trust before providing personal information or payment.
3. **Report.** 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.



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

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