

Scam Awareness



Officer R. Rodriguez

crimeprevention@police.gatech.edu

Main: 404-894-2500

Cell: 404-218-2579

There has been a rise in scam attempts where Social Security beneficiaries are being asked to pay to protect, reactivate, or to restore their benefits.

- You may have received a call from someone claiming to be a government employee, stating you have an issue with your social security number, account, or benefits.
- Often times the caller will threaten arrest or legal action if you do not agree to pay via cash, pre-paid debit card, gift card, bitcoin, wire transfer, etc.



How to tell if its legitimate, or a scam?

- ❖ Here are few things to look out for to protect yourself from being scammed.



Threatening legal action, or arrest

- If you receive a threatening phone call claiming there is an issue with your social security number, it's a **SCAM**
- The Social Security Administration (SSA) will never threaten you with arrest for not immediately paying a fine or fee.
- If there is a legitimate problem with your social security number, the SSA will mail you a letter notifying you of any issues.

Misspellings and grammatical errors

- If the scam caller follows up with an email appearing to be from the SSA, observe closely.
- Even though the letterhead may appear to look official, often times there will be misspellings in the email.



Requests for payment

- If you do need to submit a payment to the SSA, the agency will mail you a letter with payment options.
- You should never pay a government fee using cash, gift cards, wire transfers, venmo, etc.
- Scammers prefer this method because it is harder to trace.

Example:

We have had multiple reports of calls from individuals claiming there is a warrant for their arrest after their social security number was used in a serious crime.

The caller then demanded the victim's bank information, instructing them to purchase \$5,000 worth of gift cards.

Scenario

You receive a phone call from an unknown number stating they are contacting you because there seems to be fraudulent activity on your bank account. As the call progresses, they begin to ask you for account numbers, passwords, and other sensitive data.

What do you do?



Scenario

You receive a phone call from an unknown number and they introduce themselves as a representative from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). They provide you with their badge number and state that you are behind on your tax returns. They inform you that you must make a payment immediately or they will have local law enforcement sent to your home to arrest you.

What do you do?



Scenario

You receive a phone call from an unknown number, stating there is an issue with your student visa renewal. They request immediate payment for a fee of \$1,000 in cryptocurrency or gift cards. They inform you that if you do not make a payment within 4 hours, you will face arrest or deportation.

What do you do?





Phone Scam Awareness

What is Slam the Scam?

The Inspector General of Social Security, Gail S. Ennis, is warning Americans about widespread phone scams where callers impersonate government officials, most often Social Security, to gain your trust and steal your money.



What to Watch For

Social Security phone scammers may

- threaten arrest or legal action against you unless you pay a fine
- promise to increase your benefits or resolve identity theft if you pay a fee
- demand payment with retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash
- try to convince you by using spoofed caller ID numbers or officials' real names, or by emailing fake documents

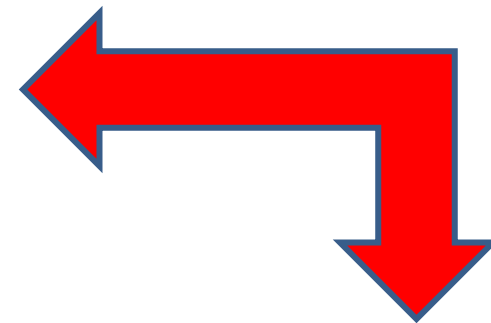
DO NOT BELIEVE THEM!

If you owe money to Social Security, the agency will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights. Social Security does not suspend Social Security numbers or demand secrecy from you, ever.

What to Do

If you receive a suspicious call:

- ✓ **HANG UP!**
- ✓ **DO NOT GIVE THEM MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION!**
- ✓ **REPORT THE SCAM AT OIG.SSA.GOV**



*Office of Inspector General
Scam Awareness Video*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aalpAirojgg>



If you are ever unsure if you are being scammed, don't give out any personal information.

Hang up and immediately contact law enforcement!



Contact GTPD at (404) 894-2500

Email at crimeprevention@police.gatech.edu

Follow us!!

GaTechPD

