

Impersonating Authority Scams

Scammers pretend to be government employees and threaten victims with arrest or prosecution unless they provide immediate payments.

Scammers often call claiming to represent a government agency, such as the Social Security Administration, IRS, U.S. Treasury, Border Security, or FBI. They may assert that a warrant has been issued for the victims' arrest and that a U.S. Marshal will arrive at their door within 24 hours.

They then pressure the victim to immediately send money and might even demand that they keep the call a secret from everyone.



Resist the pressure to act immediately. Scammers rely on creating a sense of urgency to make you act without thinking.

Take your time to assess the situation carefully.



Verify the identity of the caller or sender by asking questions that only the real person or organization would know.

Contact the agency or person directly using a trusted number or an official source.



Do not provide personal, financial, or account details to unsolicited callers, emails, or messages.

Sharing this information can lead to identity theft or financial fraud.



Do not send money through wire transfers, gift cards, or cryptocurrency.

Legitimate organizations will never ask for payment in these forms or demand immediate payments.



If you receive a suspicious call, end it immediately without providing any information.

Scammers rely on keeping you engaged, so hanging up is your best defense.



Notify the appropriate authorities, such as your local law enforcement agency, about the suspicious activity.

Reporting helps protect others from becoming victims and assists in tracking down scammers.



Share details of the scam with family, friends, and colleagues to raise awareness and prevent them from falling victim.

Spreading the word helps others recognize and avoid similar scams.