

# How to Spot, Stop, & Report Government Imposter Scams

Consumers reported more than **498,000** imposter scams to the Federal Trade Commission in 2020.

- Nearly 1 in 5 people reported losing money
- Overall, reported losses were nearly \$1.2 billion
- The median loss was \$850
- Almost one-third of the imposter scams reported involved someone posing as a government representative



## How to Spot the Scam

Scammers will call, email, text, or direct message you on social media.

- Scammers say you did not appear for jury duty and must pay a fine or you will be arrested.
- Scammers say you will be fined, arrested, or deported if you do not pay taxes or some other debt right away.
- Scammers say your Social Security or Medicare benefits have been suspended because of COVID-19-related office closures.
- Scammers say you can get a free COVID-19 test kit from Medicare in exchange for giving personal or financial information.
- Scammers say you owe back taxes, there is a problem with your return, or please verify your information.

**STOP.**  
**These are all scams!**



## How to Stop & Report the Scam

- 1. Don't give information or money to anyone who calls, texts, emails, or direct messages you on social media.** Keep your Social Security, bank account, debit and credit card numbers to yourself.
- 2. Never make a payment to someone you don't know,** especially by gift card, mobile payment apps, money transfer, or cryptocurrency. Only scammers will demand you pay that way. They know these payments are hard to reverse.
- 3. When in doubt, check it out.** If you're concerned about the request, contact the agency directly. Look up the government agency's real number on the agency's site and call to get the story.
- 4. Report the scam to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).** Tell your bank, and be sure to share these tips with your friends and family.

Learn more at [ftc.gov/imposters](https://www.ftc.gov/imposters) and [aba.com/consumers](https://www.aba.com/consumers)



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