

FBI FRAUD ALERT



IF YOU ANSWER “YES” TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, YOU MAY BE GETTING SCAMMED!

Are you about to cash a check from an item you sold on the Internet, such as a car, boat, jewelry, etc?

- ❖ Is it the result of communicating with someone by email?
- ❖ Did it arrive via an overnight delivery service?
- ❖ Is it from a business or individual account that is different from the person buying your item or product?
- ❖ Is the amount for more than the item’s selling price?

Are you sending money overseas?

- ❖ Did you win an international lottery you didn’t enter?
- ❖ Have you been asked to pay money to receive an inheritance from another country?
- ❖ Are you receiving a commission for accepting money transfers through your bank and/or PayPal account?

To report an online crime, go to:

www.IC3.gov



DON'T BE A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT!



“You’ve Won” Scams

Here’s how they work:

You get a card, a call, or an email telling you that you won! Maybe it’s a trip or a prize, a lottery or a sweepstakes. The person calling is so excited and can’t wait for you to get your winnings.

But here’s what happens next: they tell you there’s a fee, some taxes, or customs duties to pay. And then they ask for your credit card number or bank account information, or they ask you to wire money.

Either way, you lose money instead of winning it. You don’t ever get that big prize. Instead, you get more requests for money, and more promises that you won big.

Here’s what you can do:

- 1. Keep your money – and your information – to yourself.** Never share your financial information with someone who contacts you and claims to need it. And never wire money to anyone who asks you to.
- 2. Pass this information on to a friend.** You probably throw away these kinds of scams or hang up when you get these calls. But you probably know someone who could use a friendly reminder.





Want to know more? Sign up for scam alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.

...Pass it ON

Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or TTY 1-866-653-4261
- Go online: ftc.gov/complaint

Your complaint can help protect other people. By filing a complaint, you can help the FTC's investigators identify the scammers and stop them before they can get someone's hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.





Tech Support Scams

Here's how they work:

You get a call from someone who says he's a computer technician. He might say he's from a well-known company like Microsoft, or maybe your internet service provider. He tells you there are viruses or other malware on your computer. He says you'll have to give him remote access to your computer or buy new software to fix it.

But is the caller who he says he is? Judging by the complaints to the Federal Trade Commission, no. These scammers might want to sell you useless services, steal your credit card number, or get access to your computer to install malware, which could then let them see everything on your computer.

Here's what you can do:

- 1. Hang up.** Never give control of your computer or your credit card information to someone who calls you out of the blue.
- 2. Pass this information on to a friend.** You might know these calls are fakes, but chances are you know someone who doesn't.





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Imposter Scams

Here's how they work:

You get a call or an email. It might say you've won a prize. It might seem to come from a government official. Maybe it seems to be from someone you know – your grandchild, a relative or a friend. Or maybe it's from someone you *feel* like you know, but you haven't met in person – say, a person you met online who you've been writing to.

Whatever the story, the request is the same: wire money to pay taxes or fees, or to help someone you care about.

But is the person who you think it is? Is there an emergency or a prize? Judging by the complaints to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the answer is no. The person calling you is pretending to be someone else.

Here's what you can do:

- 1. Stop. Check it out – before you wire money to anyone.** Call the person, the government agency, or someone else you trust. Get the real story. Then decide what to do. No government agency will ever ask you to wire money.
- 2. Pass this information on to a friend.** You may not have gotten one of these calls or emails, but the chances are you know someone who has.





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Job Scams

Scammers might promise you a job, lots of money, or work you can do at home. But they make you pay them before they help you. If you pay them, you will lose your money and will not get a job.

How do I spot a job scam?

Look for these signs of a scam. Scammers might:

- promise you a job
- promise you a government job
- offer you the secret to getting a job
- promise that you will make lots of money by working at home
- offer you a certificate to improve your chances of getting a job

Scammers **always** will ask you to pay first. That is the biggest sign of any scam. Never pay in advance. Someone might say you cannot lose. It is not true. You will lose money.

How can I avoid a job scam?

- Never deal with anyone who promises you a job. No one can **promise** you a job.
- Do not pay in advance for information about a job. Even if there is a money-back guarantee.
- Do not deal with anyone who says you have to act fast.
- Ignore promises to make thousands of dollars working in your own home. Those promises are lies.

What if I already paid someone but I did not get anything?

If you sent money and did not get help finding a job, report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

- Call the FTC at 1-877-382-4357
- Go online: [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)

The FTC uses complaints to build cases against scammers. Any information you can give helps investigators.