

LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPERSONATOR SCAM—

According to a May 20, 2022 press release issued by federal law enforcement agencies (SSA Office of Inspector General, Department of Labor OIG, NASA OIG, the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, and the FBI), scammers are using an old tactic to gain the trust of potential victims—the government imposter scam.

What You Should Know:

A phone call is the primary means of contacting victims, but scammers may also use email, text message, social media, or U.S. mail. Scammers pretend to be from an agency or organization you know to gain your trust. Scammers say there is a problem or a prize. Scammers pressure you to act immediately and tell you to pay in a specific way. To prove they are legitimate in order to scam people out of money, scammers are emailing and texting pictures of real and doctored law enforcement credentials and badges.



How to Respond:

Protect yourself by following these tips:

1. **Do not take immediate action.** If you receive a communication that causes a strong emotional response, take a deep breath. Hang up or ignore the message. Talk to someone you trust.
2. **Do not transfer your money!** Do not buy that gift card! Never pay someone who insists that you pay with a gift card, prepaid debit card, internet currency or cryptocurrency, wire transfer, money transfer, or by mailing cash. Scammers use these forms of payment because they are hard to trace.
3. **Be skeptical.** If you think a real law enforcement officer is trying to reach you, call your local law enforcement using a non-emergency number to verify. Do not believe scammers who “transfer” your call to an official or who feed you a number as proof. Scammers can create fake numbers and identities. Do not trust your caller ID.
4. **Be cautious** of any contact claiming to be from a government agency or law enforcement, telling you about a problem you don’t recognize. Do not provide your personal information, even if the caller has some of your information.
5. **Do not click on links or attachments.** Block unwanted calls and text messages.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM

Stop talking to the scammer. Notify financial institutions and safeguard accounts. Contact local law enforcement and file a police report. File a complaint with the FBI IC3 at www.ic3.gov and with the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.FTC.gov.

REPORT all scams to the Arkansas SMP—866-726-2916 / www.ar.gov/SMP