

# Fake Government Threats, Real Financial Harm

## Government Impersonation Scams

In government impersonation scams, criminals pretend to be representatives from agencies such as the IRS, Social Security Administration, law enforcement, or courts. They claim there is a serious problem, such as unpaid taxes, suspended benefits, or legal action. The scammer uses fear and authority to pressure the victim into immediate compliance. The goal is to obtain money or personal information quickly.

### RED FLAGS

- Threats of arrest, fines, or benefit loss if you do not act immediately.
- Requests for payment through gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.
- Calls, emails, or texts claiming to be from the government that demand urgent action.

### BE SCAM SMART

- Remember that government agencies do not demand immediate payment or threaten arrest by phone or email.
- Hang up and contact the agency directly using a verified phone number.
- Never share Social Security numbers or financial information with unsolicited callers.

## Medicare Imposter Scams

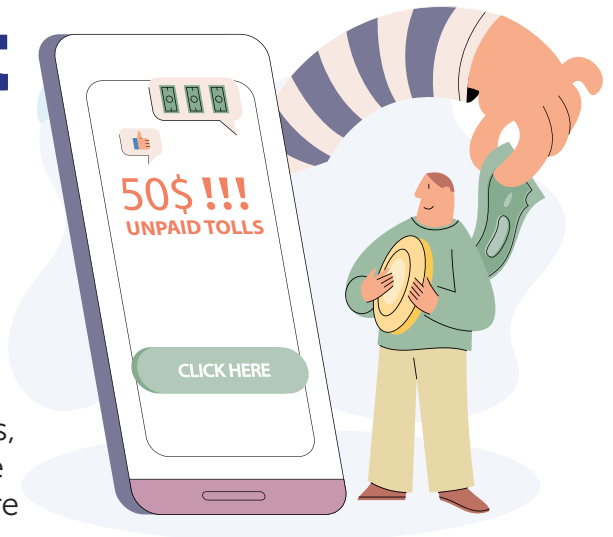
In Medicare imposter scams, fraudsters pose as Medicare representatives or healthcare officials offering new cards, benefit updates, or additional services. They often claim action is required to avoid losing coverage. The scammer may sound official and use medical terms to appear legitimate. Their goal is to steal personal information or bill Medicare fraudulently.

### RED FLAGS

- Unsolicited calls asking for your Medicare number or Social Security number.
- Claims that your Medicare benefits will be canceled if you do not respond immediately.
- Offers of “free” services or upgrades that require personal information.

### BE SCAM SMART

- Know that Medicare will not call you unexpectedly to ask for personal information.
- Do not share your Medicare number except with trusted healthcare providers.
- If unsure, contact Medicare directly or speak with a trusted advisor before responding.



## Where to Report a Suspected Scam

- FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3): [complaint.ic3.gov](https://complaint.ic3.gov)
- The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP): [1-800-963-5337](tel:1-800-963-5337)
- National Elder Fraud Hotline: [833-FRAUD-11](tel:833-FRAUD-11) (833-372-8311)
- Florida Office of Inspector General: [1-866-9-NO-SCAM](tel:1-866-9-NO-SCAM) [legacy.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Citizen\\_Services](https://legacy.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Citizen_Services)
- The U.S Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General: [1-800-447-8477](tel:1-800-447-8477) [oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud](https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud)

