



# Phone Scam Awareness

## What is Slam the Scam?

The Inspector General of Social Security, Gail S. Ennis, is warning Americans about widespread phone scams where callers impersonate government officials, most often Social Security, to gain your trust and steal your money.



## What to Watch For

Social Security phone scammers may

- threaten arrest or legal action against you unless you pay a fine
- promise to increase your benefits or resolve identity theft if you pay a fee
- demand payment with retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash
- try to convince you by using spoofed caller ID numbers or officials' real names, or by emailing fake documents

### **DO NOT BELIEVE THEM!**

If you owe money to Social Security, the agency will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights. Social Security does not suspend Social Security numbers or demand secrecy from you, ever.

## What to Do

If you receive a suspicious call:

- ✓ **HANG UP!**
- ✓ **DO NOT GIVE THEM MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION!**
- ✓ **REPORT THE SCAM AT [OIG.SSA.GOV](https://www.oig.ssa.gov)**

