



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 16, 2020

## Residents should be aware of potential Social Security scams

**Statement of Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa, Alderman José G. Pérez and  
Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic**

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Recently, there has been an increase in bilingual Social Security scammers contacting the community via telephone or email in an attempt to harm the public. We want to remind residents to be alert and aware of the warning signs that the person contacting you is a potential scammer.

Social Security may contact you in some instances but will **never** threaten you, demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action, suspend your Social Security number, require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, internet currency or wire transfer, and will never ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to mail cash.

If you receive a call you believe is suspicious be sure to hang up, do not give money or other personal information, and report the scam at <https://oig.ssa.gov/>. Similarly, do not respond to suspicious emails and immediately delete them.

Be alert, be active and most of all be safe!

# Protect Yourself from Social Security Scams

Be on the lookout for fake calls and emails



Securing today  
and tomorrow

Telephone and email scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Do not be fooled!

**If you receive a suspicious call:**

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



## What to look out for



The caller says there is a **problem** with your Social Security number or account.



Any call asking you to pay a fine or debt with retail gift cards, wire transfers, pre-paid debit cards, internet currency, or by mailing cash.



Scammers **pretend** they're from Social Security or another government agency. Caller ID or documents sent by email may look official but **they are not**.



Callers threaten you with arrest or other legal action.

## Be Alert

Social Security may call you in some situations but will **never**:

- » Threaten you
- » Suspend your Social Security number
- » Demand immediate payment from you
- » Require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, or wire transfer
- » Ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to wire or mail cash



## Be Active

Protect yourself, friends, and family!

- » If you receive a questionable call, hang up and report it at [oig.ssa.gov](https://www.oig.ssa.gov)
- » Don't return unknown calls
- » Ask someone you trust for advice before making any large purchase or financial decision
- » Don't be embarrassed to report if you shared personal information or suffered a financial loss
- » Learn more at [oig.ssa.gov/scam](https://www.oig.ssa.gov/scam)
- » Share this information with others

# Protégase de las estafas contra el Seguro Social

## Esté atento a llamadas y correos electrónicos falsos



Asegurando el presente y el futuro

Estafadores usando el teléfono o correo electrónico pretenden ser empleados del gobierno. Pueden amenazarlo y exigir un pago inmediato para evitar el arresto u otra acción legal. ¡Que no lo engañen!

### Si recibe una llamada sospechosa:

1. ¡CUELGUE!
2. ¡NO LES DÉ DINERO O INFORMACIÓN PERSONAL!
3. REPORTE LA ESTAFA EN [OIG.SSA.GOV/ESPAOL](https://oig.ssa.gov/ESPAOL)



## Preste atención a:



La persona que llama dice que hay un **problema** con su número de Seguro Social o cuenta.



La persona que llama pidiéndole que pague una multa o deuda con tarjetas de regalo (gift cards), efectivo, transferencias bancarias, tarjetas de débito prepagas, dinero electrónico, o enviando efectivo por correo.



Los estafadores que **pretenden** ser empleados del Seguro Social u otra agencia gubernamental. El identificador de llamadas o los documentos enviados por correo electrónico pueden parecer oficiales, **pero no lo son**.



Las personas que llaman lo amenazan con arrestarlo u otra acción legal.

## Esté alerta

El Seguro Social puede llamarlo en algunas situaciones, **pero nunca para:**

- » Amenazarlo
- » Suspender su número de Seguro Social
- » Exigir un pago inmediato de usted
- » Solicitar pago en efectivo, tarjeta de regalo, tarjeta de débito prepagada o transferencia bancaria
- » Solicitar números de tarjetas de regalo por teléfono o para transferir o enviar efectivo por correo electrónico



## Permanezca activo

¡Protégase a usted, su familia y amigos!

- » Si recibe una llamada sospechosa, simplemente cuelgue e informe la llamada en [oig.ssa.gov/espanol/reportar](https://oig.ssa.gov/espanol/reportar)
- » No devuelva llamadas de un número desconocido
- » Pídale consejo a alguien de su confianza antes de realizar una compra grande o una decisión financiera
- » No se avergüence de reportar si compartió información personal o sufrió una pérdida financiera
- » Obtenga más información en [oig.ssa.gov/espanol](https://oig.ssa.gov/espanol)
- » Comparta esta información con otros