



## Watch Out for Phishing Scams

Phone scams are on the rise—and they’re costing victims anywhere from a few dollars to thousands. Fraudsters often pose as representatives from the IRS, credit card companies, tech support, charities, and more. To protect your personal information and finances, be alert to these common warning signs:

- Requests for payment via prepaid debit cards, gift cards, money orders, or wire transfers
- Urging you not to speak with anyone else before sending payment
- Asking you to “verify” personal information like your full Social Security number or credit card number

If something feels off, hang up right away. If the caller claims to be from a legitimate company, contact the organization directly using a trusted phone number—not the one provided by the caller. Never make payments over the phone without verifying the request. Instead, ask that a paper bill be mailed to you.

If you think you’ve fallen victim to a scam, report it at [ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov), and visit [consumer.gov/idtheft](https://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) for steps you can take to reduce your risk of identity theft.