

Attorney General Bill Schuette

Avoid Phone Scams

Here are a few ways to help you avoid falling victim to these scams:

1. **BEFORE you answer the phone, ask:**
 - **Do I recognize the caller or the phone number?**
Don't know it? Don't answer. If you don't pick up, you can't be scammed.
 - **Am I on the DO NOT CALL list?** If so and this is not a personal, charity, or political call, then the caller is breaking the law.
 - **Do I want more unsolicited phone calls?** Every time you answer an unsolicited call, you verify your working number, which can result in more calls.
2. **If you answer the phone:**
 - **It is OK to hang up.**
 - **If you think the call is real,** return the call on a number you know is legitimate.
3. **NEVER give out personal information** (name, address, birthdate, social security or account numbers.)
 - Remember the IRS does NOT make phone calls demanding payment.

Scam Red Flags

Urgent/Secret

- Pressure to act immediately.
- Limited term; act now; or today only language.
- Told to keep the contact a secret.
- Designed to frighten you into action.

Believable

- Claims to be from the government or law enforcement.
- Claims to be calling to fix a problem with your account, computer, government benefits, or related to something in the news.
- The contact has some of your personal information already.

Money/Personal Information

- Requires a wire transfer, prepaid credit card, or any personal information.

877-765-8388

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