

# IMPOSTER SCAMS

An Imposter Scam is when a scammer pretends to be someone you trust in an effort to get sensitive information or money from you. Popular imposter scams involve individuals pretending to represent government agencies such as the Social Security Administration, Medicare or the Internal Revenue Service.

**Here is what the scams look like and what you need to know to avoid getting scammed.**



## **Social Security Administration Imposter Scam**

- The scam typically starts with an unsolicited phone call.
- The scammer says that they suspect you of committing fraudulent activity using your Social Security Number
- They ask you to verify your number to ensure they have the right person
- They threaten to sue, arrest and jail you if you do not cooperate
- They also threaten to suspend your Social Security Number and your benefits



## **Medicare Imposter Scam**

- The scam typically starts with an unsolicited phone call.
- The scammer says that Medicare is replacing your paper card with a plastic card
- They might say they are updating your number and will be issuing you a new number
- They ask you to verify your number to so they can send you the new card
- They tell you your benefits will be suspended if you don't cooperate



## **Internal Revenue Service Imposter Scam**

- The scam typically starts with an unsolicited phone call.
- The scammer says that you owe the IRS money for unpaid taxes and fees
- They insist that you must pay immediately to clear your account
- They threaten to sue, arrest and jail you if you do not cooperate
- They ask you to pay the money with a gift card, wire transfer or a money order.

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### **HERE ARE THE FACTS**

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- These government agencies generally will not make unsolicited calls to your home. Their contact will be by U.S. Mail which will provide you with information you need to know or contact information. They will call your home if you call them and request a call back.
- Government agencies will not call and threaten you with law suits, arrest or jail time and they will not threaten to suspend your benefits. If you feel threatened, the call is probably a scam. Simply hang-up the phone.
- These agencies will not call and ask you for your Medicare or Social Security Numbers. The agencies already have this information and will not need you to verify it. You should never provide this information over the phone unless you're sure you talking to a trusted source and they need the information for legitimate reasons.
- These agencies will not request payments from you by phone and they will not ask you to send them money on a gift card, by wire transfer or a with money order. You should never send money by any of these three methods and never send money to anyone from an unsolicited phone call.

If you feel that you've been targeted or a victim of a scam, call the Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol Fraud Hotline

**1-800-938-8885**

**VIRGINIA**  
**SMP**  
Senior Medicare Patrol