



# Spot, Avoid & Report Scams

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## A Fraud Handbook for Recent Refugees and Immigrants

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is a government agency that protects people from frauds and scams.

Here are some warning signs of a scam. If you see one of these signs, stop. Talk about it. Report fraud to the FTC in English at **[ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov)**. Or call 877-382-4357 to report in your preferred language. Press 3 to speak to an interpreter.

# Warning Signs of a Scam

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## **Did someone promise you a job – if you pay them?**

Never pay anyone who promises you a job, a certificate that will get you a job, or secret access to a job. Those are scams.

## **Did someone say they're from a government agency, and threaten you or demand money?**

The government doesn't call to threaten you or demand money.

## **Did someone say they could help you win the Diversity Visa Lottery to get a Green Card?**

It's free to apply and the winners are picked at random. No one can increase your chance of winning.

## **Did a notario offer to help you with your immigration status?**

If you need legal advice about your immigration status, go to a lawyer or an accredited representative. Never a notario.

## **Did you get a call, email, text, or social media message saying you won something? Except there's a fee?**

Don't pay for a prize. That's a scam. You'll lose your money.

## **Did someone ask you to pay by gift card, money transfer through a company like Western Union or MoneyGram, or cryptocurrency?**

Only scammers say you have to pay that way. Don't do it.

## Did you get a check from someone who asked you to give them part of the money back?

Don't give someone money in return for a check. Fake checks can look real and fool the bank. You'll have to pay back the money.

## Did you get a call, email, text, or social media message asking for your credit card, bank account, or Social Security number?

Never give that information to anyone who asks over phone, email, text, or social media.

## Protect Yourself and Your Information

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- Don't carry your important papers or ID cards with you.
- Don't click on links in emails, texts, or social media messages unless you're sure you know what they are.
- Don't trust caller ID. Scammers can make any name or number show up on your caller ID.
- Don't send money to anyone who calls, emails, or texts and says they're with the government.
- A government seal doesn't mean a website is official. Look for .gov in the address.
- Never pay for immigration forms from the U.S. government. They are free.
- If you think someone stole your identity, visit [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov) for help.

Report scams to the  
Federal Trade Commission at  
**ReportFraud.ftc.gov** or call  
877-382-4357 and press 3 to  
select your preferred language.

### Why report scams?

Your report helps protect people you care about. It helps the FTC shut down scammers and keeps others from getting scammed.

Learn more about avoiding scams:  
**consumer.gov**



Federal Trade Commission  
consumer.gov  
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