



# KEEP YOUR DATA SAFE

## Tips for protecting your personal data

### Prevent Identity Theft

- **Never** provide payment over the phone to callers claiming to be from a federal agency.
- If you receive a suspicious call or are unsure of the identity of someone alleging to be from a federal agency, hang up and **do not** provide personal information, money, or retail gift cards.
- Always be cautious about providing personal information to someone who calls you and asks for cash, retail gift cards, prepaid debit cards, or wire transfers

---

Federal agencies such as the IRS and Social Security Administration will **never** threaten you for information or promise a benefit in exchange for personal information or money.

Federal agency employees also will **NOT**:

- Call you with threats of jail or lawsuits
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment
- Send you an unsolicited email suggesting you have a refund or that you need to update your account
- Tell you that your SSN has been suspended
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information
- Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone
- Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a prepaid debit card or gift card

### If You Believe You Are the Victim of Identity Theft

If you are an identity theft victim, visit <https://www.identitytheft.gov/>, the federal government's one-stop resource to help you report and recover from identity theft.

---

If you suspect you are a victim of tax-related identity theft:

- Respond immediately to any IRS notice: Call the number provided.
- If your e-filed return is rejected because of a duplicate filing under your SSN or if the IRS instructs you to do so, complete [IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit](#), then attach the form to your return and mail your return according to instructions.
- If you previously contacted the IRS and did not have a resolution, call for specialized assistance at 800-908-4490.

---

If you suspect someone is using your SSN, contact the [Social Security Administration](#) to report the problem.

The SSA will review your earnings with you to ensure their records are correct.

You can also review earnings posted to your record on your Social Security Statement, which you can access [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).