



Spot, Avoid & Report Scams

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. Tell the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/whocomplaint) or 1-877-382-4357.

Not comfortable in English? Ask someone you know and trust to help you report.

Warning Signs of a Scam

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

- 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
ReportFraud.ftc.gov
or 1-877-382-4357

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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