



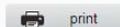
Imposter Scams

What It Is

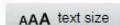
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What is an imposter?

An imposter is a person who pretends to be someone else. Imposters may pretend to be someone you know, like:

- a family member
- a friend
- a person you feel like you know but have not met in person

Imposters may pretend to be working for the government – maybe the IRS. Imposters may pretend to be from a company you trust, like:

- a company you do business with – maybe your electric company
- a company that can fix your computer
- a company that gives out prizes
- a charity that asks for donations

What are imposter scams?

Imposters are dishonest people who want to steal your money or get your personal information. They might call you on the phone or send an email or text.

Imposters might say:



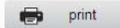
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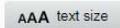
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How Do Imposter Scams Work?

In an imposter scam, a dishonest person lies and tricks you into sending money to them. They might call you on the phone or send an email or text. Imposters might try to get you to pay them by asking you to buy a gift card or wire money.

They might say:

- they are calling from a tech support company about a problem on your computer
- you owe money to the IRS or another government agency
- you just won a prize but you have to fees to get the prize
- a friend is in trouble and needs your help
- you got a check for too much money and you need to send back the extra

These are all tricks. If you pay with a gift card or wire money, the scammer will keep it. You will not get your money back.

Paying by gift card or wiring money is like sending cash. When you pay by gift card or wire money, you cannot get the money back.

For Example



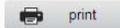
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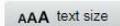
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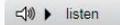
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Paying with a gift card or wiring money is like sending cash. Do not send money to people you do not know.

- Do not give out your personal information to people you do not know.
- Do not give access to your computer to people you do not know.

How do I spot an imposter scam?

Most imposter scams look like this:

- someone asks you to put money on a gift card or to wire money

A scammer might use different ways to convince you to send money. The scammer might say:

- you have a problem with your computer and you have to pay to fix it
- you owe taxes to the IRS
- you won a prize, or inherited money, but you have to pay fees first
- you won the lottery, but you have to pay some taxes first
- a friend or family member is in trouble and needs you to send money to help
- you got a check for too much money and need to send back the extra

These are all tricks. When you hear stories like these, you have spotted an imposter.