

If You Were Scammed

Here's what to do if you think you sent money to a scammer or gave a scammer your personal information. The quicker you act the better.



If I sent money to a scammer, what should I do?

Scammers can be very convincing. They call, email, and text you trying to get money or personal information — like your Social Security or account numbers. And they're good at what they do.

If you paid or sent money to someone you think is a scammer, you might not get it back. But it's always worth asking the company you used to send the money if there's a way to get it back.

Try to cancel or reverse the transaction as soon as you can.

1. Contact whoever you used to send money, for example:
 - ▶ your credit card company or bank
 - ▶ the money transfer company (like Western Union or MoneyGram)
 - ▶ the gift card company
 - ▶ the cryptocurrency company
 - ▶ the post office
2. Tell them it was a scam
3. Ask them to give your money back

If you gave cash or gold to someone, call the police.



If I gave my personal information to a scammer, what should I do?

If you gave a scammer your Social Security number, go to **IdentityTheft.gov** and report it. Answer the questions on the website. When you finish, the site will give you advice about what to do next.

If you gave a scammer your username and password, log into your account right away and create a new password. If you use the same password anywhere else, change it there, too.

How do I report a scammer?

Tell the Federal Trade Commission:

- ▶ Go online at **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**
- ▶ Call **1-877-382-4357**

