Social Security Scam

It appears as if the Social Security Scam is making the rounds again. People pretend to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and try to get your Social Security number or your money. Scammers are saying your Social Security number (SSN) has been suspended because of suspicious activity, or because it's been involved in a crime. Sometimes, the scammer wants you to confirm your SSN to reactivate it. Your caller ID often shows the real SSA phone number (1-800-772-1213) when these scammers call – but they’re faking that number: it's not the real SSA calling.

Here's what to know:

- Your Social Security number is not about to be suspended. You don’t have to verify your number to anyone who calls out of the blue, even if they say your bank accounts are about to be seized.
- SSA will never call to threaten your benefits. They will never tell you to wire money, send cash, or put money on gift cards. Anyone who tells you to do those things is a scammer. Every time.
- The real SSA number is 1-800-772-1213, but scammers can make this appear on your caller ID. If you’re worried about what the caller says, hang up and call 1-800-772-1213 to speak to the real SSA. Even if the wait time is long, confirm with the real SSA before responding to one of these calls.
- Never give any part of your Social Security number, bank account number, or your credit/debit card number to anyone who contacts you.

If you get one of these calls, tell the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint.

Resource: FTC Consumer Information.