



Imposter Scams

Here's how they work:

You get a call or an email. It might say you've won a prize. It might seem to come from a government official. Maybe it seems to be from someone you know – your grandchild, a relative or a friend. Or maybe it's from someone you *feel* like you know, but you haven't met in person – say, a person you met online who you've been writing to.

Whatever the story, the request is the same: wire money to pay taxes or fees, or to help someone you care about.

But is the person who you think it is? Is there an emergency or a prize? Judging by the complaints to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the answer is no. The person calling you is pretending to be someone else.

Here's what you can do:

- 1. Stop. Check it out – before you wire money to anyone.** Call the person, the government agency, or someone else you trust. Get the real story. Then decide what to do. No government agency will ever ask you to wire money.
- 2. Pass this information on to a friend.** You may not have gotten one of these calls or emails, but the chances are you know someone who has.

