

Be aware of phone scammers they can act friendly and helpful but others, they might threaten or try to scare you. One thing you can count on is that a phone scammer will try to get your money or your personal information to commit identity theft.

### **How to recognize a phone scam:**

- **There is no prize.**
- **You won't be arrested.**
- **You don't need to decide now.**
- **There's never a good reason to send cash or pay with a gift card.**
- **Government agencies won't call to confirm your sensitive information.**

### **How to stop calls from Scammers:**

- **Simply hang up**
- **Consider call blocking** (BCTC offers call manager for \$3.95 month)
- **Don't trust your caller ID, they can be spoofing the call**

### **Report Phone Scams**

If you've lost money to a phone scam or have information about the company or scammer who called you, report it at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/idthelp/submit-report).

If you didn't lose money and just want to report a call, you can use our streamlined reporting form at [DoNotCall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov).

Report the number that appears on your caller ID — even if you think it might be fake — and any number you're told to call back. The FTC analyzes complaint data and trends to identify illegal callers based on calling patterns. They also use additional information you report, like any names or numbers you're told to call back, to track down scammers.

The FTC will take the phone numbers you report and release them to the public each business day. This helps phone carriers and other partners that are working on call-blocking and call-labeling solutions. Your reports also help law enforcement identify the people behind illegal calls.