

# SCAM ALERT:

## Government Imposters



Arizona Attorney General  
Mark Brnovich



## Scam at a glance:

**Scammers attempt to exploit the authority of government agencies in an effort to trick consumers into giving them money, personal information, or both. These endeavors are typically threatening and demanding.**

---

**Common ruses include the IRS scam, often demanding payment for back taxes. Or the jury duty scam, where cheats impersonate court employees to collect a fee from the person for failing to show up for jury duty.**

## Warning Signs:

- Being threatened with arrest or lawsuit if you do not immediately pay a tax, debt, fine, or fee.
- Demanding you provide a debit card number, wire transfer, or purchase a gift card for payment.
- Receiving a phone call or voice mail from a domestic or foreign government agency telling you that you owe money or to call back immediately.

# Protect Yourself:

- Be skeptical if someone calls you claiming to be a government entity and claims you owe money.
- When contacting an agency directly, verify the number on the phone call, letter, or email on the agency website.
- Ask the caller to provide their name and employee number, and then call the agency directly to verify that information (using a number found through a search engine, not a number provided by the caller).
- Don't assume official looking literature is legitimate. Read the fine print and contact the agency directly.
- Do not be influenced or threatened to pay money immediately.
- Do not give out or confirm personal information unless you know who you are dealing with.
- Government agencies do not ask people to wire money, pay with a prepaid debit card, or purchase gift cards.

## Resources:

Arizona Attorney General's Office

[www.azag.gov/complaints/consumer](http://www.azag.gov/complaints/consumer)

Phoenix: (602) 542 - 5763, Tucson: (520) 628 - 6648

or Toll-free: (800) 352 - 8431

Task Force Against Senior Abuse Helpline

(602) 542 - 2124 or (844) 894 - 4735

Federal Trade Commission

[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or (877) 382 - 4357

[www.azag.gov/seniors/scamalert](http://www.azag.gov/seniors/scamalert)