



To: Tewksbury Township Seniors
From: Kathy Reddy, Senior Corner
Re: Monthly Senior Scam

Scammers can fake caller ID Info

Your phone rings. You recognize the number, but when you pick up, it's someone else. What's the deal?

Scammers are using fake caller ID information to trick you into thinking they are someone local, someone you know and may trust – like a government agency or police department, or a company that you do business with – like your bank or cable provider.

The practice is called “caller ID spoofing” and scammers don't care whose phone number they use. One scammer recently used the phone number of an FTC employee.

Don't rely on caller ID to verify who's calling. It can be nearly impossible to tell whether the caller ID information is real.

Here are a few steps for handling these calls:

- If you get a strange call from the government, hang up. If you want to check it out, visit the official (.gov) website for contact information.
- Don't give out or confirm – your personal or financial information to someone who calls you.
- Don't wire money or send money or send money using a reloadable card. In fact, never pay anyone who calls out of the blue, even if the name or number on the caller ID looks legit.
- Feeling pressured to act immediately? Hang up. That's a sure sign of a scam.

If you've received a call from a scammer, with or without fake caller ID information, report it to the FTC at 202-326-2222 or the FCC at 1-888-225-5322. Your reports help the FTC and other law enforcement investigate scams and bring crooks to justice.