



# mediarelease

## Tulalip Police Department

**For Immediate Release**

April 1, 2021

Recently, several attempts to defraud elders have come to our attention. One tries to convince elders that their social security card has been deactivated. Another refers to COVID funding. In both, scammers request personal and/or bank information from the elder.

According to Social Security's website: If there is a problem, we will mail you a letter. Generally, we will only contact you if you have requested a call or have ongoing business with us. The latest scam trick of using robocalls or live callers has increased. Fraudsters pretend to be government employees and claim identity theft or another problem with one's Social Security number, account, or benefits.

Scammers may threaten arrest or other legal action or may offer to increase benefits, protect assets, or resolve identity theft. They often demand payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, pre-paid debit cards, internet currency, or mailing cash. You can learn more at <https://www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts/>.

According to the Department of Treasury's website: If you receive calls, emails, or other communications claiming to be from the Treasury Department and offering COVID-19 related grants or stimulus payments in exchange for personal financial information, or an advance fee, or charge of any kind, including the purchase of gift cards, please do not respond. These are scams. Please contact the FBI at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov) so that the scammers can be tracked and stopped.

Please protect yourself from fraud. Be suspicious any time you receive a phone call asking for personal information, or claiming that you have a debt or fine, and threatening you if you do not pay. Authentic legal requests are generally sent via mail. Never allow high-pressure tactics to force you to give up personal identity or bank information. If you aren't sure if it's real, get a phone number and then do some research. Legitimate agencies will respect your need to protect your identity and financial information.

For more information about social security scams please visit the website: <https://faq.ssa.gov/en-us/Topic/article/KA-10018#:~:text=Don't%20be%20fooled!,currency%2C%20or%20by%20mailing%20cash.>

For COVID funding scams, visit <https://home.treasury.gov/services/report-fraud-waste-and-abuse/covid-19-scams>



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Chris Sutter, *Chief of Police*

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*The Tulalip Tribes are federally recognized successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott.*