You may have heard of scammers posing as officials from the IRS or from law enforcement agencies.

In advance of the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau is warning Americans to be watchful of scammers who pretend to be from the Census Bureau as an excuse to ask about personal or financial information.

These scammers may mail you fake paper forms, send you emails containing links to fraudulent sites, call your house asking for money, or go door-to-door posing as an enumerator.

Fortunately, there are warning signs that can help you detect Census-related scams.

THE CENSUS BUREAU WILL NOT:

× Ask for money or donations.
× Ask for your full Social Security number, credit card number, or bank account number.
× Ask for your mother’s maiden name or other security questions.
× Promote a political party.
× Threaten to arrest you. (You can be fined, but not arrested, for refusing to answer the Census.)
× Send you unsolicited emails. (The Census Bureau will almost always contact you by paper mail.)
× Use any URL besides census.gov for the online response option.
× Send you paper forms that have a return address other than Jefferson, Indiana.

REPORTING SCAMS

If you encounter a scam, report it! Even if you’re not entirely sure if a call or email is a scam, contacting a helpline can help you get help from an expert.

If you’re concerned you might be dealing with a scammer, call the Census Bureau national phone lines at 1-800-923-8282, 1-800-642-0469, 1-800-523-3205, or 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/TTY), or reach out to your Census Regional Office.

Additionally, you can report scams of any kind by calling the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at 877-382-4357 or by filing a complain with their online tool at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov.

If you receive a suspicious email, forward it to ois.fraud.reporting@census.gov and to the FTC at spam@uce.gov.

Contact YallaCountMeIn if you suspect or know of a scam so we can be sure others are aware as well. Together, we can ensure a safe 2020 Census for all!