



# Spotting a Census Scam

## PHYSICAL MAIL



The Census Bureau will **NEVER** ask you for your full Social Security Number, money, or anything on behalf of a political party.

The 2020 Census, the American Community Survey, and most other Census Bureau surveys will list the return address as Jeffersonville, Indiana.

If you receive a document that looks official in the mail, but asks for any of the above or has a suspicious return address **THROW IT OUT!**

## IN-PERSON OR ON THE PHONE



Census Bureau employees will **NEVER**:

- Ask to come in your home;
- Ask for your full bank or credit card account numbers;
- Ask for your mother's maiden name; or
- Threaten you with arrest if you do not comply.

If someone claiming to be a Census Bureau agent requests your information, ask to see their badge. It should contain their photograph, name, Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.

If they refuse to give you their information, **HANG-UP** or **CLOSE THE DOOR!**

## ONLINE




Legitimate Census Bureau e-mails and links will **ALWAYS** have a "census.gov" domain and will be encrypted. The Census Bureau will **NEVER** initiate contact via email.

If you receive an e-mail claiming to be from the Census Bureau, but the e-mail address ends with ".com" and includes suspicious links, **DO NOT REPLY OR OPEN ANY LINKS!**

Delete it or forward it to [ois.fraud.reporting@census.gov](mailto:ois.fraud.reporting@census.gov)

**ALWAYS** Look for "https://" or a lock symbol in the browser window.



 <https://census.gov>

## Need help verifying?

Call the Los Angeles Regional Census Office at 1-800-992-3530 to verify:

- (1) A caller/person at your door is a Census Bureau employee; or
- (2) A survey email link or mailing is legitimate before responding.

Washington State Attorney General's Office  
Consumer Protection Division  
[www.atg.wa.gov/consumer-issues](http://www.atg.wa.gov/consumer-issues)



Have a question or doubt?  
Call us at 1-800-551-4636