

Scammers pretend to be the FTC again

Scammers are back at it, pretending to be FTC Commissioner Rebecca Kelly Slaughter and staff at the FTC. They're emailing, saying there's an award ready to be collected (for a fee), or an outstanding COVID issue requiring your immediate attention (and, ultimately, money). But it's NOT the FTC emailing. And even if they switch to phone calls or the messages switch, those are scammers.

Here are a few things to know:

1. **The FTC won't email, call, text, or message you to ask for money or information.** Not your bank account, credit card, or Social Security number. Not your birthdate. And never, ever money.
2. **The FTC doesn't give awards or funds related to COVID-19.** Anybody who says the FTC has a prize or award for you, or has a benefit related to COVID-19 — that's a scammer.
3. **Only scammers will demand payment by gift card, cryptocurrency, or money transfer.** Period. Scammers love getting you to pay in those ways because it's easy for them to disappear with your money — and hard for you to get it back.

If you get an email from anyone asking for personal information or money, report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/whocomplaint). And please tell the FTC if you spot scammers pretending to be any Commissioner or staff at the agency. Because none of us are emailing or calling to ask you for money, and we want to try to stop those who are.