



CONSUMER NOTICE

Regarding requests for payment via gift cards



Be wary of any requests for payment via gift cards – no legitimate business or government agency will ever ask for payment *(such as for utility bills, bail, or to pay traffic tickets or tolls)* in the form of gift cards.

If that is why you are purchasing a gift card – pause and think twice.

- ✓ **DO NOT** give gift card information – including via phone, text, email, or photo – to pay bills or fees, or to fix any other problem. Gift cards are not meant for cash transfers.
- ✓ If you received an urgent call, text, or email from a co-worker, family member, or friend, asking for a gift card, reach out to that person directly to confirm that they need your help.
- ✓ If a caller told you to lie to a store clerk about why you are purchasing gift cards, this is likely a scam.
- ✓ Before buying a gift card, check to see if the packaging has been tampered with and ensure the PIN on the back of the card is not visible (it should be covered by a scratch-off seal).
- ✓ Keep the receipt or the gift card ID number to file a report if you lose the gift card or suspect fraud.

IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF A GIFT CARD SCAM OR SUSPECT GIFT CARD FRAUD, REPORT IT TO:

- ▶ The Federal Trade Commission at **<http://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>**;
- ▶ The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center at **<https://www.ic3.gov/>**;
- ▶ The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs at **973-504-6200** or **<https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/Pages/Consumer-Complaints.aspx>**;
- ▶ Your local police department who can issue a police report that may help you work with the card issuer to obtain a refund.



Office of the Attorney General
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Office of Consumer Protection

NJConsumerAffairs.gov