



**WISCONSIN OFFICE OF PRIVACY PROTECTION
OFFERS TIPS ON AVOIDING CENSUS SCAMS**

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MADISON – The Wisconsin Office of Privacy Protection is offering tips to avoid potential scams that claim to be part of the U.S. Census.

The real U.S. Census form is easy to spot, and has already arrived in the mail this month to areas served by the United States Postal Service. In all other areas, census takers will deliver the forms before April 30. The form asks just 10 questions and has a postage paid return envelope. It does not ask for Social Security Numbers and it cannot be filled out online.

Filling out the Census is an important way to help communities receive federal funding for things like hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges and public works projects and emergency services. The Census asks for information such as name, sex, age and date of birth.

The Census Bureau does NOT:

- Ask for full social security numbers, bank account or credit card information, PINs or passwords.
- Conduct the 2010 Census via the Internet
- Send emails about participating in the 2010 Census
- Ask for money or a donation
- Send requests on behalf of a political party

If you receive such a request whether by regular mail, email, or phone call, it is not the Census Bureau.

Steps to take if you suspect a scam:

- If someone comes to your door, check for a valid Census ID badge or call your regional Census Bureau.
- If you are contacted by email, do not reply, click on any links or open any attachments since they might harm your computer. You also should not open any attachments. Attachments may contain code that could infect your computer. Please forward the email or web site URL to the Census Bureau at ITSO.Fraud.Reporting@census.gov. You will not receive a confirmation that your email was received, but the Census Bureau will investigate the information and notify you of its findings

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