



MALIA M. COHEN
CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER

FRAUD ALERT

The State Controller's Office has been informed by the Sacramento County Assessor's Office that a property owner was recently targeted in attempted fraud scheme. According to the Assessor's Office, a property owner recently reported receiving a fraudulent phone call from someone impersonating a County employee, requesting their Social Security number and date of birth to process a property tax exemption application. The details, as well as the fraud alert can be found at the following:

<https://www.saccounty.gov/news/latest-news/Pages/Sacramento-County-Assessors-Office-Fraud-Alert.aspx>

Property owners should be aware of the fact that County Assessors offices do not request personal identification information by phone, text, or email. Personal information is only accepted through official Assessor forms that are signed and properly submitted. If you receive such solicitation, please do not continue the conversation and contact your local county assessor's office immediately to report the incident.

While this fraud was detected specifically in regard to the Sacramento Assessor's Office, such fraudulent behavior is generally statewide. Consequently, we urge property owners throughout the state to be on alert for similar telephone scams. Some recommended protective safeguards include:

- **Do not give out personal information:** Never give out personal or financial information to someone who calls you, unless you initiated the call.
- **Verify the number:** Make sure you independently verify that the phone number is legitimate.
- **Don't engage:** If you answer a call and it seems like a scam, hang up and report the incident immediately.
- **Use call blocking:** You can use call blocking devices on your home phone and/or your cell phone.
- **Report the call:** You can report directly to the agency the individual claims to work.

We can all prevent fraud if we remain vigilant and safeguard personal information. If you have any questions or concerns regarding fraudulent activity, please contact the State Controller's Office at (916) 445-2636.