



Center for International Students and Scholars (CISS)

## Scam Advisory for International Students

The CISS has been informed that multiple international students and scholars have received scam calls from individuals that claim to be government officials (FBI, USCIS, IRS, Detention Centers, 911) using fake phone numbers that can imitate government agencies. Sometimes, these callers demand personally identifiable information (financial information, bank account numbers, SSN number, etc.) or payment of “fees” via wire transfer or gift cards to resolve what they claim to be a problem with your immigration status or taxes, and that you are under surveillance and at risk of deportation. They may also tell you that contacting any other individual or referencing another source regarding the issue may result in serious consequences or deportation. **These calls are false.** Even if the caller knows information about you already, *do not* share any additional information or financial information with the caller.

### Important Reminders:

- Government agencies **will not** call you to demand payment over the phone, even if you owe money or have not paid a fee. Any communications will occur in writing via official government mail.
- 911 will never call you. The only time that 911 may show up on your caller ID is in the case of a widespread emergency or safety advisory in your area. These are generally pre-recorded messages.
- The government will never ask for you to pay a fee via a particular payment method (such as wire transfer, gift cards, etc.).
- The government will not ask for personal, financial, SSN, bank account information, credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- The government will not threaten arrest or deportation for late payment on a fee.
- A government agent cannot remain anonymous. They are required to give badge information.

### What if I receive a similar call from someone claiming to be a government official?

- 1) Do NOT share any personal or financial information, and do NOT transfer any money.
- 2) Ask for the name and contact number for whomever is calling, along with a badge number.
- 3) HANG UP. Do not answer additional calls from that number.
- 4) Report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://www.identitytheft.gov/>
- 5) Call Bentley University Police’s non-emergency number at 781-891-2201 to report it to the university. Then call CISS at 781-891-2829 or email [GA\\_CISS@bentley.edu](mailto:GA_CISS@bentley.edu) to report it to the Center for International Students and Scholars.

### **What if I already gave them information or money?**

- 1) Call Bentley University Police's non-emergency number at 781-891-2201 to file a report. Unfortunately, in most cases, the police will not be able to recover any lost money. However, the police report is useful in making other credit protections moving forward.
- 2) Notify the CISS that you have been subject to a scam.
- 3) If you disclosed your Social Security Number, [report this to the SSA](#).
- 4) Report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.identitytheft.gov/> and research a plan to monitor your credit and potential fraudulent activities.

### **Why was I targeted?**

Bentley University does not disclose information about your student or immigration status. Frequently, scammers use information available publically online via social media and other websites to make an informed assumption about your status. To further protect yourself from potential scams, you may wish to:

1. Check your LinkedIn and related accounts. Remove any contact information (other than email, if required).
2. Check your social media accounts, particularly if they are public. Remove your phone number for these accounts, and be mindful of what you post online.
3. Check if your contact or other personal information is available via online directories. You may inquire about getting these listings removed.

For any questions regarding scams, your status, or immigration-related fees, please contact Bentley University's Center for International Students and Scholars at [GA\\_CISS@bentley.edu](mailto:GA_CISS@bentley.edu) or 781-891-2829.