

That text about overdue toll charges is probably a scam

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When you go through a toll, you know you'll need to pay a fee to use that road or bridge. But scammers are targeting drivers with text messages pretending to be from the tolling agency collecting "overdue toll charges." Here's what to know about this text scam.

The scammy text tells you to click a link to pay "overdue toll charges" to avoid late fees. But it's probably not the tolling agency contacting you. It's probably a scammer. Clicking the link can lead to a phishing attack, where the scammer tries to take your personal information (like your driver's license number) — and even steal your identity. And if you pay, not only are you out the money, but the scammer gets your credit card number, too.

To spot and avoid text scams about a fake toll:

- **Slow down.** Don't rush to click on links or respond to the text. Scammers want you to react quickly when they send you an unexpected text message, but it's best to stop and check it out.
- **Check with the tolling agency.** If you're worried the text is legit, check with the state's tolling agency. But use a phone number or website you know is real — not the info from the text.
- **Report unwanted text messages.** Use your phone's "report junk" option to report these unwanted texts to your messaging app or forward them to 7726 (SPAM).
- **Don't engage. Delete the message.** Unwanted messages often lead to scams. Once you've checked it out and reported it, delete the text message. And don't engage.

Share this information with people you know so they also can be prepared to spot and avoid the scam. And if you spot a text scam, the FTC wants to hear about it. Go to ReportFraud.ftc.gov and tell us your story.

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