The Scam Call Process

1

(###)-###-####

Information Is Posted Online
An individual reveals their phone number online without realizing it has been submitted to a public search engine. For example, the individual may have posted their resume to a career site, signed on online petition, or left their number on their social media profile.

2

(###)-###-####

Information Obtained by Scammer
By analyzing public sites and scanning web pages for phone numbers, scamming agencies/scammers identify, seize, and add the individual's phone number to a list of potential victims.

3

ID: (###)-XXX-XXXX

Scammer Masks Real Phone Number
The scammer utilizes a phone number spoofing software to call the phone number they identified online. The call may appear to have a similar area code to the individual, even if it originates from an overseas location.

4

Urgency
Lack of Identity
Promises/Prizes
Suspicious Background
Suspicious Phone Number

Scam is Pitched to Individual
The scammer encourages the individual to perform a task in order to solve a problem or retrieve a prize. The scammer's pitch contains multiple suspicious elements.

Individual Recognizes Scam
The individual realizes that the person on the other end is a scammer and recognizes scamming tactics on the call. The scammer is unable to provide background information, answer personal questions, or explain how they obtained the individual's information.

Scam is Reported and Precautions are Taken
The individual is uneasy and wants to ensure that their assets are protected, so they report the call to the Federal Trade Commission, call their bank, enable multi-factor authentication, change their passwords, and remove their information from public sources.

6

Scam Continues
The scammer successfully obtains information, and the individual is unaware until they realize that their assets have been stolen.

5

Individual Becomes Victim of Scam
The individual does not recognize the suspicious elements of the phone call, and provides the scammer with their bank information or login credentials.