

**SONIA LEARNS  
THE TRUTH ABOUT**

# **GOVERNMENT IMPERSONATORS**

**A FOTONOVELA  
FROM THE FEDERAL  
TRADE COMMISSION**



***FOLLOW SONIA'S STORY...***

**...from the moment she gets an alleged call  
from the government until she learns the truth.**

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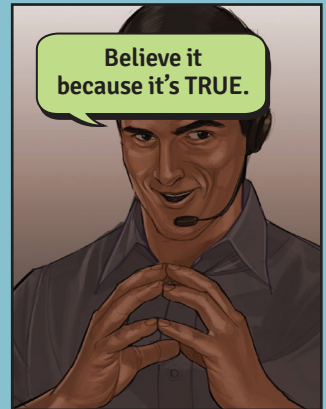
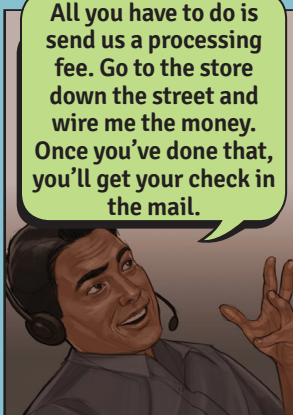
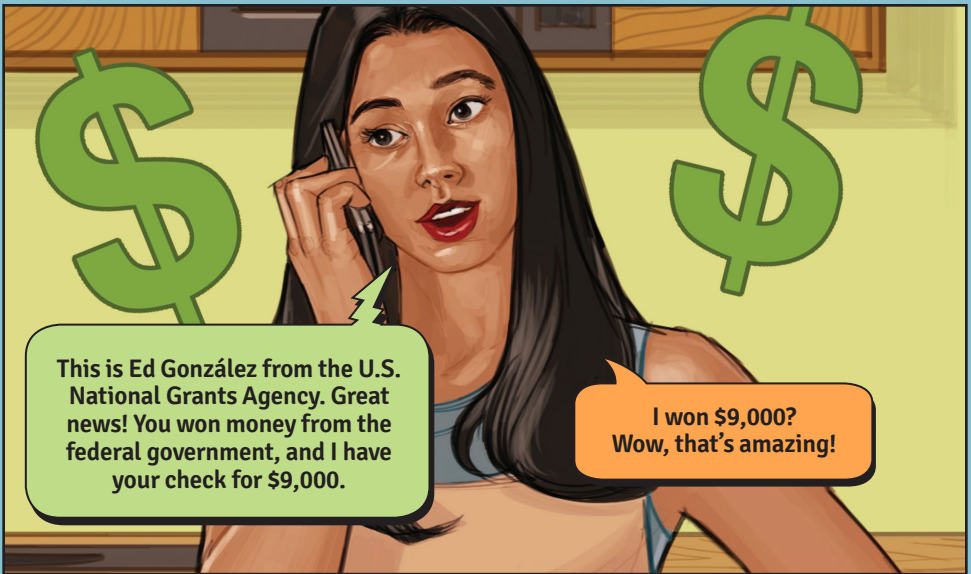
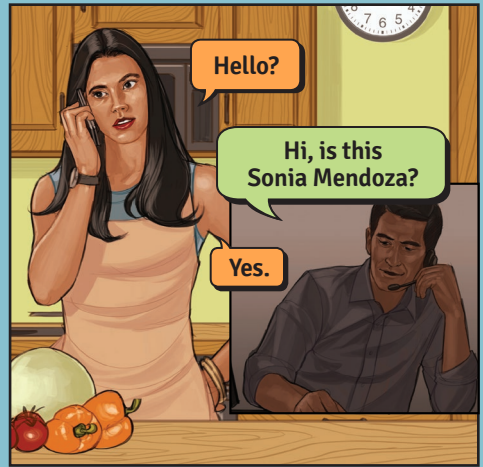
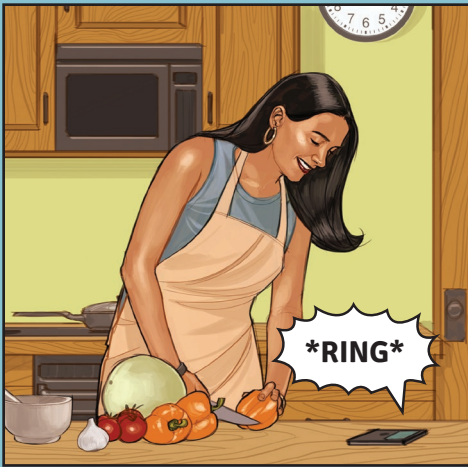
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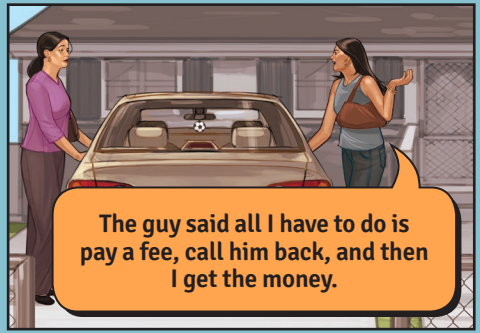
## ABOUT THE FTC

The Federal Trade Commission is the nation's consumer protection agency. Its mission is to protect consumers from fraudulent and deceptive practices.

This fotonovela is part of the FTC's ongoing efforts to help all communities, including the Latino community, avoid scams and stop fraud. To read all the fotonovelas online and to order print copies in Spanish, visit [ftc.gov/graphicnovels](https://ftc.gov/graphicnovels).

**Report fraud by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP or at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov).**







I wouldn't send any money. He could be pretending to be from the government. As convincing as it sounds, it could be a scam.

I'm going to send it anyway. This could be my chance.

THE NEXT DAY: AFTER WIRING THE MONEY, SONIA CALLS THE NUMBER ED GAVE HER.



National Grants Agency.

Hi. I'm calling to claim my money.

Great, I see your information here. You're getting \$9,000. Isn't that amazing? I need your driver's license number. Did you already wire the processing fee?

Yes, I did.

SONIA WAITS FOR A CHECK THAT NEVER ARRIVES.



WHAT ARRIVES IS ANOTHER CALL...



LATER THAT DAY...





Let's see if this agency is even real. You go old school and I'll look online.



I can't find anything about this agency that called you. No name, no address, no phone number.

Me neither.

This sounds like a scam.





Let's look at the facts.


The person who called you said you won money from the government, but the government doesn't call to give you money.




He said you had to pay to get the money you won, but if you have to pay, it's not a prize.

If someone you don't know asked you to wire money, that's already sketchy. And it's like sending cash. You can't trace it or get it back.





Ok, I think I just learned a lesson.



You know what? We should report this to the Federal Trade Commission.

Someone told me you don't have to give your name – just the details about what happened. Maybe we can help keep somebody else from losing money.



## HOW TO SPOT AND AVOID AN IMPERSONATION SCAM:

- ✔ **If someone calls you, says they work for the government, and says you won money through a “grant,” lottery, or contest, it’s a scam.** Hang up or don’t respond to the message.
- ✔ **If someone tells you to pay by wiring money, gift card, or cryptocurrency, it’s a scam.** Don’t pay. Anyone who tells you to pay that way is a scammer.

Learn more about how to avoid impersonator scams at [ftc.gov/impersonators](https://ftc.gov/impersonators).

Report fraud, scams, and bad business practices to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov) or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). Report your experience and give as much or as little information as you want. Your report helps the FTC investigate, stop fraud, and alert the community.

Order free copies of this fotonovela and other educational materials in Spanish at [ftc.gov/fotonovelas](https://ftc.gov/fotonovelas).

Sign up to get scam alerts in English at [ftc.gov/ConsumerAlerts](https://ftc.gov/ConsumerAlerts) and in Spanish at [ftc.gov/AlertasDeConsumidor](https://ftc.gov/AlertasDeConsumidor).



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