

Tips to Protect Yourself



Know that wiring money is like sending cash



After a disaster, give only to established charities



Talk to your doctor before you buy health products or treatments



Don't send money to someone you don't know personally



Don't agree to deposit a check and wire money back for anyone



Don't reply to messages asking for personal or financial information



Know that fraudsters will pose on the internet as interested romantic partners



Conduct background checks on a caregiver before hiring



Know that the federal government will never call you on the phone and ask for personal information



Have a plan in case a medical emergency arises

Stay Aware of Scams

One of the best ways to protect yourself from financial fraud is to remain informed. Learn about financial scams at:

consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts
elderjustice.gov/senior-scam-alert

elderjustice.gov

Break the Silence & Report

The majority of financial fraud victims choose not to report their victimization. Do not remain silent. You're not alone. Speak out and tell someone. Find the right reporting agency by going to the **Elder Abuse Resource Roadmap: Financial** at elderjustice.gov/roadmap

- Reporting helps us track trends so we can warn people about scams
- In some instances, there may be help available that you are unaware of



Victim Connect Hotline

*Crime victim service referrals,
with senior services specialists*

9am-6pm EST, Monday through Friday

1-855-4VICTIM (1-855-484-2846)

In South Carolina, please contact the U.S. Attorney's Office Elder Justice Coordinator at (864) 282-2100

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Get the facts about

Financial
Scams



Financial Fraud & Scams

Fraud Victimization

Millions of older Americans become victims of financial fraud each year:

- You are not alone
- 10,000 Americans turn 65 every day
- Over 13% of older Americans become victims of financial fraud every year
- Of those who are subject to a fraud attempt, 25% will become a fraud victim
- Older adults lose more than \$3 billion annually to financial scams

Examples

Examples of fraud & scams include:

- Overcharging for products or services
- Lottery and sweepstakes fraud
- Pretend romantic attention towards an older adult
- Scammers posing as government employees telling you to pay a fee
- Someone posing to be from the information technology field offers to fix a non-existent problem with your computer

It's Your Right

Fraud victims have been approached:

- While in the grocery store
- By knocking at the door
- Through the phone
- Through the internet
- Through the mail

If someone approaches you in any of these ways, you do not have to respond.

It is ok to hang up the phone, not answer the door, not open an email or a piece of mail, or say “No, thank you” to someone approaching you in the parking lot.