

HANG UP ON FRAUD!



COMMON FRAUDS & SCAMS

As the state's consumer protection agency, the Minnesota Department of Commerce is committed to empowering older adults and their families to protect themselves against financial fraud.

Frauds can be committed by family members, friends or even financial professionals. But when a stranger contacts you seeking money, it is a big red flag of potential fraud. Although the use of email and social media for scams is growing, the weapon of choice for fraudsters is still the telephone. They use scare tactics or too-good-to-be-true opportunities to get you to send money, provide personal information or gain access to your computer. No matter how nice or vulnerable a person might sound, if anyone reaches out to you over the phone and asks you to send them money, don't be afraid to hang up on fraud.

Recognize common phone scams

Tech Support Scam

"I'm calling from Microsoft and it appears you have a computer virus."

Sweepstakes/Lottery Scam

"You've won a foreign lottery! Send money to claim your winnings."

IRS Imposter Scam

"You will be arrested if you don't provide immediate payment for your unpaid taxes."

Utility Provider Scam

"Your electricity will be cut off tomorrow if you don't provide immediate payment."

Grandchild Scam

"This is your grandson and I'm in jail and need bail money."

Credit Card Scam

"We need to verify your account information right away!"

Online Dating Scam

"I can't wait to visit you! Can you wire me money for a plane ticket?"

Arrest Warrant Scam

"There's a warrant out for your arrest and you must pay immediately!"

Tips to protect your money and personal information

- End the call
- Trust, but verify
- Stay in control
- Monitor your accounts
- Ask tough questions
- Phone a trusted friend or family member
- Report fraud
- Take time to research callers
- Protect your online accounts
- Delete suspicious emails

Minnesota Commerce Department Consumer Services Center

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