



FRAUD PREVENTION FOR SENIORS



FRAUD PREVENTION

Seniors are often targeted by criminals who are looking to exploit them. Whether it happens by phone, by Internet, or in person, it can be equally devastating to someone's independence and financial stability. Realize the possibility of fraud in day-to-day activities and through interactions with people and businesses.

EMERGENCY SCAM

Generally targeting grandparents, this scam plays upon emotions to send money to someone in need. Typically, a call is made from someone claiming to be their grandchild. They will state they are in trouble and need money immediately. Sometimes a second call will be placed from someone pretending to be a lawyer or police officer.

IDENTITY THEFT

Protecting your identity and credit history is important to living a happy, stress-free life. If your identity is stolen or your credit history is compromised, it can take years to recover and affects your sense of security. Take the necessary steps to protect yourself.

CANADA REVENUE AGENCY SCAM

Fraudsters contact you by phone and identify themselves as agents from the Canadian Revenue Agency. They state you have overdue taxes to pay immediately or you will be arrested or face some other type of severe penalty. Payment is requested by wire transfer services or through the purchase of gift cards.

INVESTMENT SCHEMES

Investment frauds target people using convincing arguments to make you give away your savings. Fraudsters ask you to invest your money, usually promising a very high rate of return, only for you to lose your savings.



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DISTRACTION THEFT

Distraction thieves work in teams and often approach victims in busy parking lots with an offer of assistance - claiming your tire is flat, your vehicle has been damaged or that you have dropped something. While you are distracted, an accomplice steals your purse, items from your vehicle or the vehicle itself.

ROMANCE SCAM

The search for love and companionship can be both exciting and scary. In your quest to meet the right person, scammers will play on your feelings to extort money from you. Be careful when embarking on a new relationship and educate yourself on the techniques scammers use.

LOTTERY SCAM

This scam announces that you've won a lottery or sweepstakes, but in order to claim your prize, you have to send money or divulge personal information. Once you pay, you never receive your prize and if you've given out personal information, your identity and bank account could be in jeopardy.

HOME REPAIR/RENOVATION FRAUD

These types of scams involve the fraudster going door-to-door offering a great deal on a service such as driveway paving, landscaping or furnace checks and pressuring you to make a decision quickly. If the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.

The most important piece of advice is if you don't understand what is happening in any situation, ask for help. Call police, a friend or family member you can trust. You can reach us on our non-emergency number at 1-866-876-5423. In an emergency, call 9-1-1.

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