

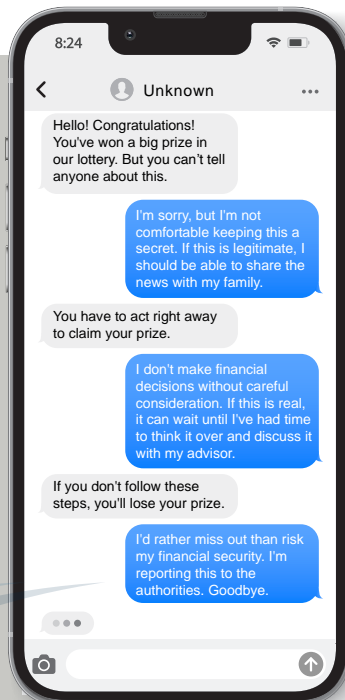
DEFEND YOURSELF:

Real-Life Tips on Preventing Scams

1. Talk with vulnerable friends and family
2. Read online reviews prior to making purchases
3. NEVER give out personal information unless you know the source is credible
4. Be aware of what you post on social media as to not make yourself a vulnerable target
5. If it's too good to be true, it probably is
6. Legitimate business won't accept payment via gift cards
7. IRS, Social Security will not call and ask to confirm information
8. Install Antivirus Software (Norton 360, McAfee, Bitdefender)
9. Contact your bank right away if you think you've sent money to a scammer
10. Report attempted and successful fraudulent activity to reportfraud.ftc.gov

RECOGNIZE & REACT SWIFTLY

If you find yourself in a conversation that seems suspicious, whether on the phone, online, or in person, take immediate action: **hang up, hit delete, or slam the door!** While this might feel impolite, it's a highly effective method to protect yourself from being scammed. Scammers rely on your politeness and hesitation to exploit you, so swift and decisive action can save you from potential fraud.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

FBI FRAUD CRIME REPORT

www.ic3.gov

REPORT FRAUD OR ILLEGAL BUSINESS ON THE
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE

www.reportfraud.ftc.gov

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR
SERVICES

www.health.mo.gov/safety/abuse

REGISTER WITH THE NATIONAL DO NOT CALL
REGISTRY TO LIMIT PHONE CALLS

www.donotcall.gov

REGISTER TO LIMIT JUNK MAIL

www.DMAchoice.org

QUESTIONS?

BTC Bank

Quentin Mcconkey, Security Loan Officer

Phone: 660-726-3213

E-mail: quentin.mcconkey@btcbank.bank

BTCBANK



BTCBANK.BANK



HOW TO IDENTIFY FINANCIAL FRAUD

AND WAYS TO
PROTECT YOURSELF

WHAT IS A SCAM?

A scam is a trick a con artist plays on an unsuspecting victim to extort money. If the scam succeeds, the victim's money is gone, and the scammer will move on to the next victim.

A scammer is the ultimate salesperson with a tempting offer or a skilled liar with a plausible story:

- Easily pinpoints a victim's vulnerabilities and appeals to emotions: sympathy, fear, loneliness
- Quickly gains trust
- Insist on secrecy
- Shows no mercy, e.g., doesn't take "no" for an answer

Know the Red Flags of a Scam

- Immediate action required
- Insistence on secrecy
- Money needed up front
- Hard-to-track payment methods

Build Your Scam Defenses

- Do not be rushed into any financial decision
- Assume that insistence on secrecy is a ploy to deceive you
- Be suspicious of any situation that requires you to send money up front
- Confirm all stories, offers or charities independently
- Be very cautious about clicking on email links

Block Those Scammers

- Register with the National Do Not Call Registry at www.donotcall.gov and the www.DMAchoice.org to limit legitimate phone calls, emails and direct mail. See the back of this pamphlet for additional resources
- Limit personal information on social media and choose the strictest privacy settings on social media accounts
- Use antivirus software on your computer

What to Do If You Are Scammed

- Don't be embarrassed or afraid
- Tell someone you trust
- Report the scam to your bank immediately to limit losses
- Contact your local police and federal agencies, like the Federal Trade Commission

Information provided by aba.com/seniors

MOST COMMON TYPES OF FRAUD

ACCORDING TO THE FBI, THERE WERE OVER

\$16 BILLION*

IN REPORTED FRAUD LOSSES IN 2024.



Americans reported over 859,532 incidents of financial fraud to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, with investment scams and business email compromise being the costliest.*

*Source: FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) – www.ic3.gov

Tech Support Fraud

Scammers contact victims via phone or email impersonating tech companies offering to fix their devices or software.

Confidence Fraud/Romance

Scammers target social media sites or online dating sites to find potential victim profiles. They also often claim to be in the military or live in a different country for work to avoid meeting in person.

Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance

The initial contact is often a call, email, social media notification or piece of mail congratulating on their prize. In order to claim the prize, they must pay fees and taxes. The scammer will continue to call victims for months and saying the "big prize" is one more payment away.

Government Impersonation

With the increase in government payouts during the pandemic, government impersonation has also increased. Potential victims receive a phone call claiming they're receiving money from the government and need confirmation of personal information. Scammers also claim to be from Social Security and inform the victim there are issues with their account.

Investment

Schemes are often sold as low or no-risk investments, guaranteed returns or overly consistent returns. These schemes often target specific people or groups. Groups include people with common interest, age, religion or ethnicity to build their trust.

Check Fraud / Mail Theft

Check fraud has surpassed \$24 billion in scams in prior years. If you are mailing checks, don't place mail in mailbox overnight. Put in there prior to post office pick up or deliver directly inside post office. If you send a check, wrap the check in a blank piece of paper disguising the check inside the envelope.

Money Mule

Criminals try to conceal the identity and source of their money. If you receive money from someone you do not know, and they ask you to deposit into your bank account or open a new account and send them money elsewhere you are likely involved in a money mule scam. Never respond to an offer to receive quick money. If it's too good to be true, it probably is.

Online Sales

If you're selling an item and a buyer sends you a check that is more than the asking price, disengage from the possible buyer. Scammers will also try to sell a product and seek payment via gift cards. Try to review any reviews on any potential seller before buying a product.



For more information, visit aba.com/seniors