

# KNOW THE CURRENT SCAMS

## PROTECT YOURSELF

## AND YOUR NEIGHBORS!



### SCAM TYPE

### CONSIDER

**ROMANCE** — Fraudsters offer romance to gain a victim’s trust before requesting money for reasons like medical emergencies or travel expenses. Or they may offer to help victims buy gold or cryptocurrency.

- Do they ever meet you in person?
- Claims of being celebrities or working overseas?
- Do you feel pressured, or is money requested?
- Have you tried an image search of their photo?

**TECH SUPPORT/PHANTOM HACKER** — Posing as technical support who found a problem. Or perhaps claiming to be law enforcement and say hackers are accessing your accounts. Victims pay for unnecessary services, grant access to devices, or move money out of “hacked” accounts and into the scammers hands.

- Did a pop-up warn of issues and offer help?
- Was access to your account or device requested?
- Did you consult someone you trust before responding?
- Being asked to move money to a “safer” account?
- Did you verify law enforcement agent’s identity?

**GRANDPARENT** —Scammers impersonate a grandchild over the phone, claiming they are in trouble and need immediate financial assistance. The victim is urged not to tell other family members.

- Were you told immediate help was needed?
- Were you encouraged not to call other family?
- Did you verify the child’s location with family?
- Do you have a family safe-word, or did you ask any questions only family would know?

**PHISHING** —Scammers send deceptive emails or texts posing as legitimate entities, like banks, to obtain sensitive information such as passwords or credit card numbers or demand payment to solve a problem.

- Are you being asked to click on a link?
- Does the email domain name match the company?
- Are they asking for passwords or account information, or threatening to close your account?

**LOTTERY/GOVERNMENT GRANT** —Victims told they've won a lottery, sweepstakes, or grant, but to claim the money, they must pay taxes or processing fees. However, there's no actual prize, and the scammers disappear with the money.

- Have you entered any contests?
- Did you know that requiring a payment to receive a prize is illegal?
- Are they demanding you hurry and respond?

**GOVERNMENT IMPERSONATION** —Fraudsters pretend to be government officials, threatening legal action or arrest if victims fail to comply with demands such as paying back taxes or fines.

- Did you look up the number and call the agency directly?
- Are they threatening to call the police?
- Is payment demanded in gift cards, wire transfer or cryptocurrency like bitcoin?



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## CONSIDER

**PIG BUTCHERING** — An unexpected text shows up on your phone, seemingly out of the blue, possibly with an unusual explanation for the contact. They seem friendly and over the course of days or weeks an apparent friendship develops. Then they mention an investment opportunity that worked for them, and eventually the scammers have the victim's money.

- Is this contact unexpected? Don't respond to unsolicited messages.
- Do they refuse face-to-face meets? Or video chats?
- Are they inviting investment in financial products? Or cryptocurrency?
- Is there a sense of urgency?
- Do the claims seem exaggerated?

**HOUSE AND YARDWORK** — Scammers offer unsolicited services like home repairs or yard work to older adults at inflated prices. They may use shoddy materials or perform unnecessary work, leaving the victim with poor-quality services and wasted money.

- Did you do an online search to check if the business is legitimate?
- Was an estimate provided?
- Are they requesting payment upfront?
- Have you gotten multiple estimates?

## VENTURA COUNTY SUPPORT RESOURCES

- **Ventura County Adult Protective Services** **805-654-3200**  
[ventura.org/human-services-agency/adult-protective-services/](https://ventura.org/human-services-agency/adult-protective-services/)
- **Ventura County Scam Alert Page** [ventura.org/human-services-agency/scam-alert/](https://ventura.org/human-services-agency/scam-alert/)
- **Sheriff's Fraud Hotline**—for victims, call **805-654-9511**, **TO LEARN ABOUT SCAMS IN SPECIFIC CITIES, CALL:**  
Camarillo: 805-388-5175      Fillmore: 805-477-7020      Moorpark: 805-299-1566  
Ojai: 805-477-7050      Thousand Oaks: 805-371-8327      Headquarters: 805-654-2145

## NATIONAL RESOURCES FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION

- **National Elder Fraud Hotline** **1-833-FRAUD-11 or (833-373-8311)** [www.justice.gov/stopelderfraud](https://www.justice.gov/stopelderfraud)
- **Tips from the Federal Trade Commission on Avoiding Scams** [consumer.ftc.gov](https://consumer.ftc.gov)
- **Dept. of Justice Scam Alert Site** [www.justice.gov/elderjustice/senior-scam-alert](https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/senior-scam-alert)

## RESOURCES FOR REPORTING FINANCIAL ABUSE AND SCAMS

- **Federal Trade Commission Site to Report Fraud and Scams** [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov)
- **FBI Site for Reporting Internet Crimes** [www.ic3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov)

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- **Online Courses on Healthy Aging, Brain Conditions, and Financial Abuse** [learning.neuropsyched.com](https://learning.neuropsyched.com)
- **Tools to Look at Financial Vulnerability and Decision-Making Ability** [www.olderadultnestegg.com](https://www.olderadultnestegg.com)