

FINANCIAL SECURITY AWARENESS

FINANCIAL FRAUD

WIRE TRANSFER FRAUD

Wire transfers are a frequent target for fraud, given the speed and permanency of these actions. Criminals continue to shift their strategies and utilize more sophisticated tactics. Wire transfers are a frequent target for fraud, given the speed and permanency of these actions. BEFORE you wire any funds, and if you are sending the wire to a business, contact the legitimate company by using the phone number or email provided on their official website. Always ensure that you have the recipients correct contact information prior to sending out any funds. Most importantly, only send money to someone you know and trust.

IRS FRAUD

Tax Collection – Scammers are impersonating IRS agents and calling or sending a text or email claiming that you owe taxes. They demand that you pay immediately, usually with a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. In most cases, they will threaten to arrest you if you do not pay. The IRS will ALWAYS initiate contact by mail FIRST, in regards to unpaid taxes. DO NOT click on any links in the email or text message to provide or verify your personal information. The IRS NEVER demands that you pay taxes without letting you appeal the amount in question. The IRS DOES NOT require that you pay via wire transfer or any specific payment method. The IRS DOES NOT threaten to bring in law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying that requires you to verify your personal information. The link provided will bring you to a fraudulent form or website. The IRS will ALWAYS initiate contact by mail FIRST, in regards to unpaid taxes. DO NOT click on any links in the email or text message to provide or verify your personal information. The IRS NEVER demands that you pay taxes without letting you appeal the amount in question. The IRS DOES NOT require that you pay via wire transfer or any specific payment method. The IRS DOES NOT threaten to bring in law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

Phone and email scammers will pretend to be government employees, threatening you and demanding immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Social Security may call you in some situations, but will NEVER: Ask for your SSN, threaten you, demand immediate payment from you, suspend your SSN, require payment by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card or wire transfer, or ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to wire or mail cash.

SAFETY TIPS

- ✓ Check your financial statements each month for any suspicious activity.
- ✓ Never send money to someone who you don't know.
- ✓ Update software when needed, use strong passwords, and think before you click on any links in emails or text messages.
- ✓ Never give out your banking or personal information unless it is to a trusted source.
- ✓ Screen your phone calls using voicemail.

FRAUD RESOURCES

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
MEDICARE FRAUD
IDENTITY THEFT RESOURCE CENTER (ITRC)
INTERNET CRIME COMPLAINT CENTER (IC3)
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)
SSA OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

www.consumerfinance.gov | (855)-411-2327
www.ftc.gov | (202)-326-2222
www.medicare.gov | (800)-633-4227
www.idtheftcenter.org
www.IC3.gov
www.irs.gov
oig.ssa.gov

FINANCIAL SCAMS

FAMILY & FRIEND IMPERSONATOR SCAMS

Beware of scammers pretending to be your grandchild, relative or friend. Often these scammers claim to be in trouble – usually in jail or stranded in a foreign country, asking you to send them money. They may ask you to send cash by mail or to buy gift cards. In most cases, these scammers will beg you to keep it a secret and pressure you to act fast before you begin to question them. If this happens to you, do not panic. Hang up the phone; call your grandchild or friend's phone number to see if the story provided by the caller is legitimate. NEVER send money or provide personal information unless you can verify the situation with a trusted person.

CHARITABLE CAUSE SCAMS

A charitable scam is when a thief poses as a real charity or makes up the name of a charity that sounds real to get money from you – taking advantage of your generosity. Take Caution – Ask for detailed information about the charity, including address and phone number, and look it up to confirm the charity is real. Be wary if you get a call following up on a donation pledge that you don't remember making.

FAKE MAIL SCAMS




Fraudulent mail letters look real, but the promises are FAKE. Watch out for these warning signs: Claims that you have won money or will win money. Letters that are asking you to pay a fee to receive a prize. Letters from psychics or offers to predict the future. Mail that looks personalized to you from someone you don't recognize. Do not respond nor send money. If you are unsure about a letter, ask and show someone you trust.

ROMANCE SCAMS

Romance scammers create fake profiles on dating sites and apps or contact you through social media. The scammer will strike up a relationship with you to build trust, then make up a story and ask for money. They may say they need your help paying for medical expenses, a plane ticket, or that they are in trouble and need to pay a fee or fine. They will pressure you to act immediately. If you suspect you are a victim of a romance scam:

1. Stop talking to the person immediately.
2. Talk to someone you trust about the situation and get their opinion BEFORE sending any money.

TAKE ACTION

-  If you think you may be a victim of financial fraud, contact the Credit Union immediately and be sure to close your account & transfer funds to a new account.
-  Request copies of your credit report & any potential documents related to fraudulent activities. Also, consider placing a freeze on your credit and contact each of the three credit bureaus if necessary.
-  Dispute fraudulent or inaccurate information on your credit report with a credit bureau.

