

Practical Steps for Prevention and Self- Protection



Red Flags and Warning Signs



Unsolicited Information Requests

Scammers request personal or financial information unexpectedly, such as Social Security numbers or passwords.

Urgency and Pressure Tactics

Scammers pressure victims to act quickly, often threatening legal action or harm to loved ones.

“Love Bombing”

Scammers will shower victims with attention, even small gifts, to convince them that they are the person they want them to be and that their love is genuine.

Untraceable Payment Methods

Requests for payments via gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency are common scam indicators.

Suspicious Communication Details

Fake caller IDs or email addresses with subtle errors are red flags to watch out for.

Offers Too Good to Be True

Be skeptical of deals that seem unusually beneficial or unrealistic to avoid potential scams

What to Do If You Suspect a Scam

Cease Communication

Stop engaging with suspected scammers by hanging up or deleting messages immediately to protect yourself.

Disconnect Devices

If a scammer has accessed a device, disconnect it from power and internet until it can be checked by a professional.

Seek Trusted Advice

Talk to family or friends to gain a second opinion and clarify the situation before taking action.

Report to Authorities

Report scams to official organizations like the FTC, FBI IC3, or AARP Fraud Watch Helpline to aid prevention.

Stay Informed and Vigilant

Understand that scams are manipulative and maintain awareness as your best defense against fraud.

Scam Protection Checklist

Protect Personal Information

Never share personal data like Social Security numbers or banking info in unsolicited communications.

Recognize Scam Red Flags

Watch for urgent demands, threats, or unusual payment requests as strong scam indicators.

Verify Suspicious Requests

Always confirm suspicious messages by contacting official sources or trusted contacts before responding.

Take Control and Stay Safe

Feel empowered to ignore or hang up on suspicious contacts until legitimacy is confirmed.

Best Practices for Documenting and Reporting Suspicious Activity

Record Suspicious Activity

Maintain clear and detailed records of suspicious contacts and transactions to ensure accurate documentation.

Report to Authorities

Promptly report suspicious incidents to trusted authorities like local police or elder protection agencies for proper action.

Seek Support Promptly

After reporting, seek support from trusted organizations or support networks to ensure safety and guidance.



Resources and Support for Elder Scam Victims



Assistance and Counseling

Organizations provide emotional support and counseling to help elder scam victims cope and recover from fraud.



Legal Support Services

Legal aid is available to help victims pursue justice and prevent further financial harm from scams.



Prevention Resources

Educational resources and guidance empower elders to recognize and avoid scams in the future.