COMMON SCAMS AIMED AT OLDER ADULTS

More info at www.learnidaho.org/common-scams

Grandparent

Scammers pose as your grandchild in distress, seeking immediate financial help.

Red Flags: Urgent requests for money, unusual details or inconsistencies in their story.

How to Stay Safe: Verify their identity with family members, avoid sharing personal information over the phone.

Phishing

Fraudulent emails, calls, or texts designed to steal personal and financial information.

Red Flags: Unsolicited messages, misspelled words, requests for sensitive data.

How to Stay Safe: Verify the sender's identity, avoid clicking suspicious links or downloading attachments.

Identity Theft

Personal info (Social Security number, credit card details) are stolen to commit fraud.

Red Flags: Unfamiliar charges or accounts on your credit report or financial statements.

How to Stay Safe: Research contractors, get written estimates, and check references before hiring.

Tech Support

Scammers impersonate tech support to gain remote access to your computer.

Red Flags: Unsolicited calls, computer pop-up messages, requests for payment.

How to Stay Safe: Only use trusted tech support services, never share personal or financial information.

Charity

Fake charities soliciting donations for a fabricated cause.

Red Flags: High-pressure tactics, vague mission statements, reluctance to provide details.

How to Stay Safe: Verify the charity's legitimacy, donate directly through their official website.

Investment

Offers of high returns with no risk or vague investment opportunities.

Red Flags: Guaranteed profits, pressure to invest quickly, unregistered investments.

How to Stay Safe: Research investments, consult a financial advisor, and avoid unsolicited offers.

Romance

Fraudsters posing as romantic interests to gain money or personal information.

Red Flags: Quick declarations of love, requests for money, refusal to meet in person.

How to Stay Safe: Be cautious online, verify the person's identity, and avoid sharing personal or financial information.

Sweepstakes

Fake notifications of winning a prize, requiring payment to claim it.

Red Flags: Requests for fees or taxes upfront, unsolicited prize notifications.

How to Stay Safe: Be skeptical of unsolicited winnings, never send money to claim a prize.

Social Security

Scammers impersonating Social Security officials to steal personal information or money.

Red Flags: Threats of legal action, demands for immediate payment, requests for personal information.

How to Stay Safe: Verify the caller's identity independently, never share personal information over the phone.

Money Mule

Scammers recruit individuals to transfer stolen funds on their behalf.

Red Flags: Unsolicited job offers, requests to transfer money on someone else's behalf.

How to Stay Safe: Be cautious of unsolicited job offers, don't agree to transfer money for anyone you don't know.