

Avoiding Scams, Schemes and Swindlers

Stay a Step Ahead by Knowing What to Watch Out For

Did you know there are scams designed specifically to take advantage of seniors? Older people tend to be more trusting or less aware of new and different ways they can be defrauded. So be alert. Be skeptical. And look out for schemes like these.

Posing as a Medicare or IRS Representative

Your health and tax records are a bonanza for scammers who want to steal your identity. If someone calls you about Medicare or threatens you for unpaid taxes, don't give them your personal information. Call Medicare or the IRS yourself instead.

Preying on Grieving Spouses

Scammers will read local obituaries and the seek out the surviving spouse, claiming that the person who died owed them money -- hoping to collect from the spouse.

Calling about a Relative in Distress

Suppose you have a child, grandchild or another family member in a different city. Con artists might call you saying that person is in jail or in the hospital, and needs you to send money right away for bail or medical expenses.

Soliciting for Fake Charities

This can happen at any time but especially after widespread news of disasters. Even if you're moved by the cause, the best response is to ask for the name of the organization and then do some research yourself before donating.

Downloading Internet Viruses

Beware of pop-up windows on the internet that offer anti-virus software. If you download them -- or click on strange attachments in unsolicited emails -- you could expose your personal information to hackers who want to steal your identity.

Questions for Meals on Wheels? Call us at 205.592.0413. Source: National Council on Aging

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