



# SCAMS, FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT TIPS

There are a number of scams to try to steal your money and personal information. Scams may come through phone calls from real people, robocalls, text messages or email.

Scammers make false promises, such as opportunities to invest your money or buy products, offer you money through free grants and lotteries, or even call with threats of jail or lawsuits if you don't pay them. RCPD wants to offer these tips to help you identify and protect yourself from scams.

- **Hang up on and block suspicious phone calls, and block suspicious text messages and emails.** Unwanted correspondence from unknown senders could be an attempt to collect your personal information.
- **Be cautious of caller ID.** Scammers can change the phone number that shows up.
- **Never provide any credit card, Social Security or bank information.**
- **Never provide passwords, PINs or account numbers.**
- **Never believe promises of easy money.** If it sounds too good to be true, it most likely is, especially if coming from an unfamiliar requester.
- **Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card, by using a money transfer service, by depositing a check, or by sending money to someone.**
- **If the caller identifies themselves as a charity, make sure it is a reputable charity.** A quick Google search should verify the legitimacy.
- **If the caller is requesting money transfers regarding a relative in trouble, independently verify the status of the family member.**
- **Resist pressure.** Legitimate companies, charities, government agencies, etc. will be happy to give you time to make a decision. If in doubt, pause and talk to someone you trust.
- **Register your phone number with the National Do Not Call Registry at [DoNotCall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236).** If you still receive telemarketing calls after registering, there's a good chance that the calls are scams.

## RANCHO CORDOVA, REPORT!

If you have been scammed or think you have been scammed:

- **File a report with local law enforcement.**
- **Obtain a copy of any records of the money transfers.**
- **File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov).**

## LEARN MORE

Learn more about common scams and frauds at <https://www.usa.gov/scams-and-frauds>.

More Safety Tips



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