

## **Senior Scam Alerts**

### **Impostor Scams**

The United States Department of Justice's Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force presents five important frauds targeting senior citizens. The first one is a Social Security Administration **impostor** scam. Impostors contact the senior citizens and tell them that their social security number has been suspended because of suspicious activity or it has been involved in a crime. They will want to confirm your social security number and withdraw money from your bank account to store on gift cards for safe keeping. They frighten the senior citizens by telling that their accounts may be seized or frozen if they fail to act quickly. They may use robot calls to reach their victims or tell the victim to press "1" to speak to a government support representative for help. They may use Caller ID spoofing to make the call look legitimate.

### **Tech Support Scam**

Fraudsters telephone the senior citizen claiming to be computer technicians from a well-known company. They claim that they have detected computer viruses, malware, or hacking attempts. They ask for remote access to a computer. They may then use your computer to order large quantities of expensive items that they will have shipped to a destination unknown to the computer owner, or they may ask for your bank account number to debit it for their services. (Source the Federal Trade Commission)

### **Lottery Scam**

Fraudulent telemarketers from Jamaica and other foreign countries call seniors telling them that they have won a sweepstakes or foreign lottery. They claim to be lawyers, lottery representatives, or custom officials. They tell people that they have won millions of dollars, vacations, or cars. They only need to pay shipping, insurance, custom duties, and taxes to receive their winnings. The source for this article is the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica.

### **IRS Imposture Scams**

IRS Impostor Scams are aggressive and sophisticated phone scams targeting taxpayers. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but they are not. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. Victims are told that they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a wire transfer or stored value card such as a gift card. Victims who refuse to cooperate are threatened with arrest, deportation, or suspension of a business or driver's license. IRS Impostor Scams operating from abroad often use U.S.-based "money mules" to receive victim payments and transmit proceeds to perpetrators. Source: Internal Revenue Services (Money mules are individuals that fraudsters pay a fee to transport packages to them. Often the money mules do not realize they are involved in a scheme to defraud people of their money.)

### **Dating Scams**

Millions of Americans use dating sites, social networking sites, and chat rooms to meet people. And many forge successful relationships. But scammers also use these sites to meet potential victims. They create fake profiles to build online relationships, and eventually convince people to send money in the name of love. Some even make wedding plans before disappearing with the money. An online love interest who asks for money is almost certainly a scam artist. Romance scams operating from abroad often use U.S.-based money mules to receive victim payments and transmit proceeds to perpetrators.

Source: [Federal Trade Commission](#)