

10 Common Scams That Target Older Adults

TYPES OF SCAMS TO WATCH OUT FOR

1. **Grandparent Scams:** Scammers pretend to be a grandchild (or loved one) in trouble and ask for money quickly.
2. **Government Imposter Scams:** Scammers pose as IRS, Medicare, or Social Security representatives demanding payments or personal information.
3. **Tech Support Scams:** Calls or pop-ups claim your computer has a virus and request remote access or payment for fake repairs.
4. **Romance Scams:** Scammers build online relationships and then ask for money, often for emergencies or travel.
5. **Charity Scams:** Fraudsters pose as charities, especially after disasters, and pressure for donations.
6. **Lottery & Sweepstakes Scams:** You are told you've won a prize but must pay fees or taxes to claim it.
7. **Investment Scams:** If someone promises big profits with no risk, it's likely a scam.
8. **Home Repair Scams:** Fake contractors demand upfront payments and disappear without completing work.
9. **Phishing Scams:** Fraudulent emails or texts impersonating banks or companies to steal your personal information.
10. **Utility Scams:** Callers claim your utilities will be shut off unless an immediate payment is made.



TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Don't send money to someone you don't know or have never met in person.
- Don't click on links in text messages or emails.
- Always do your research! Verify information and only use official sources.
- Talk to someone you trust — they can help identify red flags that you've missed.

REPORT SCAMS

If you think you've been scammed, don't be afraid to report it. Contact DFPI immediately by calling **1-866-275-2677** or going online at dfpi.ca.gov.

For more articles and resources on fraud prevention, visit the Aging in California Resource Hub online at aging.ca.gov.



Stay informed. Stay safe. Protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud.