

Preventing Scams Against Older Adults



What We Do

The Minnesota Elder Justice Center provides support to older and vulnerable victims and their families, professional education and training, public awareness, and public policy advocacy.




Questions?

Call the Minnesota Elder Justice Center Helpline for guidance and resources at [651-440-9312](tel:651-440-9312).


Our services are confidential, and free of charge.

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 www.elderjusticemn.org

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We do not operate a 24/7 hotline or a full time crisis center.

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Common scams to avoid

The same characteristics that make an older person susceptible to familial exploitation, may also make them perfect targets for scammers. Whether by phone, mail or face to face, scammers are not always strangers—building trust is a common tactic used to exploit older adults. Watch out for these common scams and tactics:

Phishing: A scammer uses many tactics to try and get your personal information

Medical scams: Relying on the confusion many have about insurance and medical coverage, scammer may “phish” for information or sell things you don’t need

Charity scams: Bogus charities prey on the good-nature of others

Sweetheart scams: A person convinces an older adult that they are in a romantic relationship as a means to exploit

Wire-Transfer scams: Fake lotteries and other scams often require victims to wire money or purchase prepaid debit cards

Pushy sales tactics: Someone insisting you buy or do something immediately

Remember to S.T.O.P.

Systematize your Finances: Create a system to simplify daily and weekly money management, and sort through the mail and offers that bombard seniors.

Tell Someone: Set up a “buddy” system and consult someone you trust before making large purchases or investments. Don’t be pressured into quick decisions.

Obtain the Documents: When hiring for any service, ensure the person is properly screened and licensed. Never sign documents you don’t fully understand without consulting an attorney, family member, or trusted friend.

Practice saying NO: Hang up the phone! If offered a “prize,” “loan,” or “investment” that sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Never share personal information unless you initiated the call and know who you’re speaking with.