

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.