

How to Spot a Scam



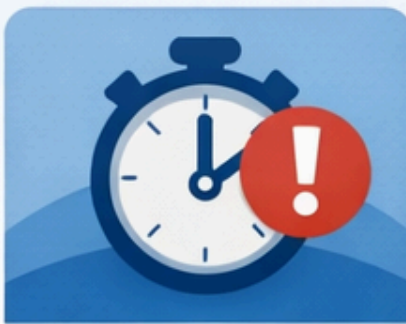
» Watch for These Signs: «



Pretend to be from an Organization You Know



Claim There's a Problem or a Prize



Pressure You to Act Immediately



Demand Specific Payment Methods

Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the FTC, Social Security Administration, IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like your **Escrow or Title company**, a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations. They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

They might say you're in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone in your family had an emergency. Or that there's a virus on your computer. Some scammers say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information. Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

They often insist that you can only pay by using cryptocurrency, wiring money through a company like MoneyGram or Western Union, using a payment app, or putting money on a gift card and then giving them the numbers on the back of the card. Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), then tell you to deposit it and send them money.

» Protect Yourself: «



Block Unwanted Calls & Texts

Filter out scam messages.



Don't Share Personal Info

Keep your info private.



Resist the Pressure

Take your time to think.



Avoid Unusual Payments

Say no to gift cards or crypto.



Stop and talk to someone you trust

Always call a trusted number prior to sending funds

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Report Scams to the FTC

ReportFraud.ftc.gov

TEAM LINDA VILLA
Your Team in Escrow

www.TeamLindaVilla.com



TeamLindaVilla@TicorEscrow.com