WELCOME SENIOR SCAM STOPPER SEMINAR



ASSEMBLYMEMBER ALEX LEE 24TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

PHONE: (408) 262-2501 | (916) 319-2024 EMAIL: ASSEMBLYMEMBER.LEE@ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV WEBSITE: A24.ASMDC.ORG







DURRIYA SYED California Department of Insurance

STEPHANIE GUTIERREZ-VALDEZ and MIGUEL GALARZA California Contractors State License Board

KUE LEE

California Department of Financial Protection & Innovation

JOE BURDICK Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office



DURRIYA SYED CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE





CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Durriya Syed Community Relations & Outreach Branch

How the Department of Insurance improves lives of Californians



- Protect consumers from fraud and abuse
- Regulate most lines of insurance and maintain insurer solvency
- Set standards for agents and broker licensing
- Perform market conduct reviews of insurance companies
- Resolve consumer complaints
- Investigate and prosecute insurance fraud
- Cannot require or compel insurance companies to sell insurance

Most Common Insurance Fraud



- Seniors are the largest population targeted for scams
- Why are seniors big targets?

Annuities



- What is it?
- Is it RIGHT for you?
 - Pros
 - Cons

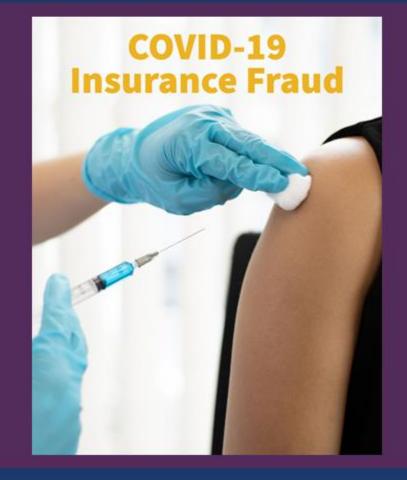


Common Insurance Scams









Insurance Scam Warning Signs



- The agent
 - offers "free" seminars
 - offers "free" meals
 - offers to create or update a living trust
 - gives you wrong information about your current investments
- Senior Insurance Bill of Rights (SIBOR)

Avoid Becoming a Victim



- ✓ Check the status of insurance agent/insurance company
- ✓ Answer all questions thoroughly and truthfully
- ✓ Get everything in writing and compare policies
- ✓ ASK QUESTIONS
- ✓ Never feel pressured or intimidated
- ✓ Don't sign anything you do not understand



Insurance Fraud Resources & Contacts

Department of Insurance

- 800-927-4357 www.insurance.ca.gov
- Senior Medicare Patrol
 - •855-613-7080
- AARP Fraud Watch Network Hotline
 - •877-908-3360
- Coalition Against Insurance Fraud
 - www.InsuranceFraud.org

Senior Resources from CDI



Senior Gateway – www.seniors.insurance.ca.gov
One-Stop Website – hosted by CDI
Senior Information Guides



Follow QR Code:



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE CONTACT INFORMATION



Insurance Questions or Concerns www.insurance.ca.gov 800-927-4357



STEPHANIE GUTIERREZ-VALDEZ MIGUEL GALARZA CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD





www.cslb.ca.gov/seniors

Contact Stephanie Gutierrez-Valdez 916-880-0590 Stephanie.Gutierrezvaldez@cslb.ca.gov

What Seniors Should Know About Construction Scams

About CSLB

- Protects California consumers
- Licenses nearly 300,000 contractors in 44 different classifications



CSLB Headquarters, Sacramento, CA

SENIORS ARE TARGETED IN CONSTRUCTION SCAMS



Seniors are trusting, which can make them vulnerable



Unlicensed contractors will try to manipulate seniors



Scammers attracted to seniors' life savings and pensions



Do not answer your door to strangers selling their services

HOW TO AVOID COMMON CONSTRUCTION SCAMS



Just say no, and keep saying no



Do not make any cash payments



HOW TO AVOID COMMON CONSTRUCTION SCAMS



Get everything in writing; verbal agreements are not binding



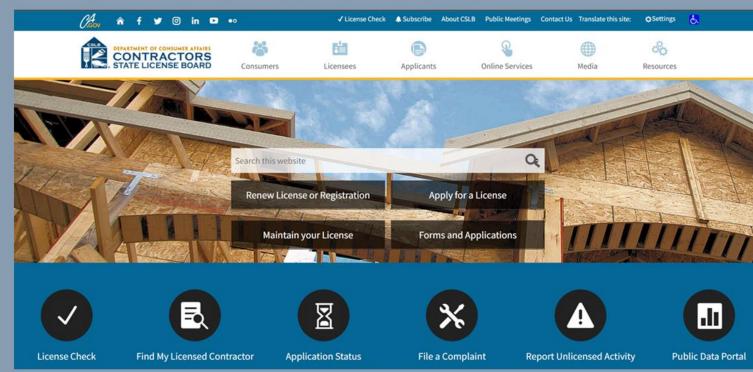
Down payments can only be 10% or \$1,000 of the contract price - whichever is less!

<u>ALWAYS</u> check the contractor license number to make sure it is current and in good standing at www.cslb.ca.gov or by calling 800-321-CSLB (2752)



IF YOU'VE BEEN SCAMMED

- Call CSLB: 1-800-321-CSLB (2752), or
- Visit www.cslb.ca.gov, "File a Complaint" on the homepage, or
- Email: cslbinfo@cslb.ca.gov





TIPS FOR HIRING THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR

- Get at least three bids
- Ask to see the contractor's pocket license and current photo ID
- Ask for proof of their liability insurance
- Make sure to get a detailed written contract before you make a down payment, and before work begins
- Don't let payments get ahead of the work. Don't pay for work that has not been completed to your satisfaction.







TIPS FOR HIRING THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR (CONTINUED)

- Pay no more than 10% of the total contract price, or \$1,000 - whichever is less
- Keep all project documents, payments, photographs in a job file
- Seniors have 4 years from the date of construction to file a complaint
- Ages 65+ have a five-day right to cancel any contract (California law)

SOLAR PROJECTS & REMINDERS WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLARSMART

IS SOLAR RIGHT FOR YOU?

- Length of time in home
- Roof direction
- Do the math with solar
- Look at monthly statements



SOLAR PROJECTS & REMINDERS WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLARSM

- Solar is <u>not free</u>
- Beware of financing programs:
 PACE, HERO, CHEEF, OR REEL
- High interest rates
- Tied to property taxes



SOLAR PROJECTS & REMINDERS WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLARSMART

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SOLAR FRAUD

- Don't let payments get ahead of the work
- Get everything in writing
- Make sure you understand the contract terms



ALWAYS CHECK A LICENSE & HIRE LICENSED CONTRACTORS FOR JOBS WORTH \$500 OR MORE FOR LABOR & MATERIALS

VISIT WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV OR CALL 800-321-CSLB (2752) TO CHECK A LICENSE AND/OR FIND A LICENSED CONTRACTOR IN YOUR AREA





"The best ways seniors can protect themselves against construction fraud is to check a license on our website and always get at least three bids." - David R. Fogt, CSLB Registrar



www.cslb.ca.gov/seniors

Contact Stephanie Gutierrez-Valdez 916-880-0590 Stephanie.Gutierrezvaldez@cslb.ca.gov





KUE LEE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION & INNOVATION



Protect Yourself from Fraud and Scams Kue Lee **Director of Targeted Outreach** Kue.Lee@dfpi.ca.gov



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION & INNOVATION







DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION & INNOVATION

866-275-2677

The Department of Financial Protection & Innovation

Who Are We? What Is Our Role?

The DFPI is California's licensing and regulatory agency of statefinancial institutions, products, and professionals.

We conduct exams to ensure compliance, review consumer complaints, and pursue legal actions against those operating illegally, or are using unlawful, deceptive, or abusive practices.

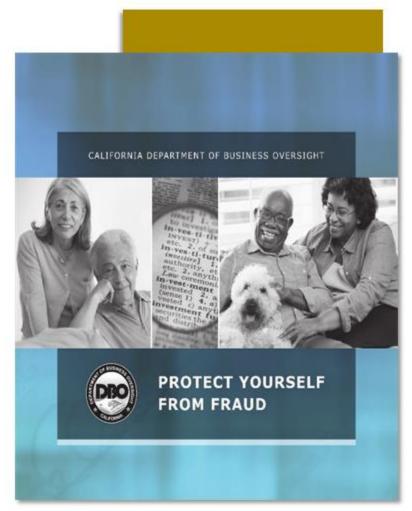


We also provide financial education and consumer awareness presentations throughout California to inform and help protect consumers.

Learn more at: <u>https://dfpi.ca.gov</u>

How is the DFPI Promoting Consumer Awareness?

- DFPI provides in-person and virtual presentations
- DFPI website features:
 - News and Consumer Alerts (<u>www.dfpi.ca.gov/news</u>)
 - Crypto Scam tracker (<u>www.dfpi.ca.gov/crypto-scams</u>)
 - Events and investor education (<u>www.dfpi.ca.gov/events</u>)
- FREE DFPI publications (<u>www.dfpi.ca.gov/outreach</u>)
- DFPI YouTube Channel (<u>www.youtube.com/cadfpi</u>





The PACE Financing Program

What is PACE?

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

A program providing homeowners finance energy-efficient and water-saving improvements to their property.

www.DFPI.ca.gov/PACE







Use Caution with PACE and other Home-Improvement Financing Programs

Before signing the contract - be sure you check the license of <u>both</u> the contractor and the lender.

To verify the Contractor, contact the Contractor's State License Board at <u>www.cslb.gov.</u>

To verify the Lender, go DFPI's website at <u>www.dfpi.ca.gov</u> or call our Consumer Services Office 1-866-275-2677.

For more information on the risks and laws, visit <u>www.dfpi.ca.gov/PACE.</u>







Romance Scams!!!!

In 2022 - 70,000 people reported a romance scam, and reported in the last 5 years losses hit a staggering \$1.3 billion

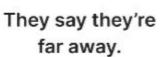
 Average of \$9,500 in losses each



Is Your Cyber Sweetheart Swindling You?

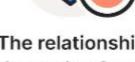
Roses are red, violets are blue, and romance scammers can fool you, too. Look for these red flags.







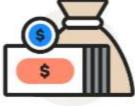
Their profile seem too good to be true.



The relationship is moving fast.



They break promises to see you.



They ask for money.



They require specific payment methods.

Warning





Common Methods Scammers Use to Contact You:



- □ Vishing Telephone (home/cell)
- Phishing Computer/Emails
- □ Smishing Text Messages
 - "Click here"
 - "Callback number"

DO NOT RESPOND to any of these attempts to contact you!





HELLO... WHO'S CALLING?

Trending Frauds & Scams

- Grandparent/Relative Scam
- Credit/Debit Card purchases
- Debt Collectors
- Government Imposters:
 - IRS / Social Security
 - Utility Company
 - Financial Institutions

DO NOT RESPOND to any of these attempts to contact you!





Artificial Intelligence (AI) Scams

- https://youtu.be/V6_jCGzR020
- FTC: Scammers use AI to enhance their family emergency schemes (https://tinyurl.com/dfpi322203)
- DFPI Launches Sweep of Investment Fraud Claiming Ties to Artificial Intelligence (<u>https://tinyurl.com/dfpi4192023</u>)





EXAMPLE OF PHISHING



From: Bank of America <crvdgi@comcast.net> Subject: Notification Irregular Activity Date: September 23, 2014 3:44:42 PM PDT To: Undisclosed recipients: ; Reply-To: crvdgi@comcast.net



Online Banking Alert

Would be capitalized

Dear member:

We detected unusual activity on your Bank of America debit card on **09/22/2014**. For your protection, please verify this activity so you can continue making debit card transactions without interruption.

Please sign in to your account at https://www.bankofamerica.com

to review and verify your account activity, After verifying your debit card http://bit.do/ghsdfhgsd transactions we will take the necessary steps to protect your account from rraud. If you do not contact us, certain limitations may be placed on your debit card.

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EXAMPLE OF SMISHING



Text Message Today 08:58

We have identified some unusual activity on your online banking. Please log in via <u>http://</u> <u>bit.do/dq3WJ</u> to secure your account.

Wednesday, 21 April 2021



DHL: Your parcel is arriving, track here: <u>http://demo.mipunet.cn/a/</u> <u>?lrwlaoj8eo66</u>



Text Message Today 1:43 PM

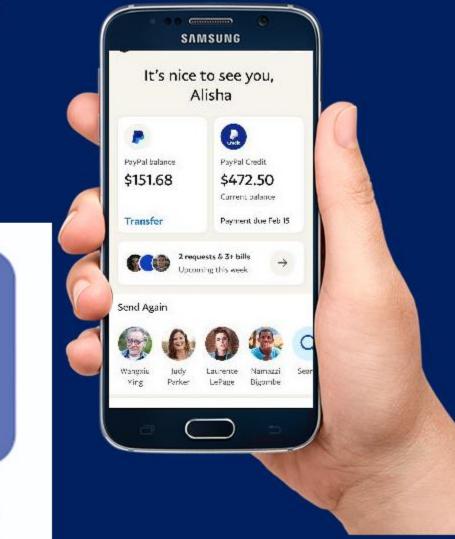
Notice-269078 from:Chase-Bank. Code: Your Card is temporary locked. Please call us now at 201-429-3304 to unlock.

05:12

Money Apps / Transfer Scams

Apps on mobile devices
In-person storefronts
Online

Free Msg-Suncoast Credit Union Alert-Did You Attempt A Zelle Payment For The Amount of \$5000.00? Reply YES or NO Or 1 To Decline Fraud Alerts





NO

Website safety

https:// www.securesites.com

> Unsecured connection

> Secure connection

http:// www.unsecuredsite.com X Missing "s" Connection between your web browser and the website server is encrypted

Just like an ID card confirms a person's identity, a private key confirms server identity.



Credit Reports: What You Need to Know

- Three major credit reporting agencies
- Credit Bureaus must:
 - 1. Make sure that the information they collect about you is accurate.
 - Give you a free copy of your report once every 12 months (at your request).
 - 3. Provide you a chance to fix any mistakes.
- <u>www.annualcreditreport.com</u> or call 1-877-322-8228
- Other reasons for a free credit report:
 - Signs of identity theft
 - Freeze your credit
 - File a complaint





File a Complaint:

- CA Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI)
 - www.dfpi.ca.gov/file-a-complaint
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
 - <u>www.reportfraud.ftc.gov</u>
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
 - www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint
- CA Attorney General's Office
 - <u>https://oag.ca.gov/contact/consumer-complaint-against-business-or-company</u>
- CA Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
 - www.dca.ca.gov/consumers/complaints/consumer.shtml



Be Careful with Crypto!

- Currently crypto assets <u>ARE NOT</u> regulated.
- Investing in or purchasing crypto assets does <u>not</u> guarantee that you'll make money.
 - If someone is making that promise, it's a big scam red flag.
 - Do your research! Gather information from more than one resource.
- Check government agency websites for scam information.
- Don't rush into anything: Scammers prey on the fear of missing out (also known as "FOMO").





Additional Crypto Assets Resources and Help

- DFPI Crypto Assets webpage:
 - www.dfpi.ca.gov/crypto
- DFPI Crypto Scam Tracker webpage:
 - www.dfpi.ca.gov/crypto-scams
- Securities and Exchange Commission's Crypto Assets and Cyber Enforcement Actions webpage:
 - www.sec.gov/spotlight/cybersecurity-enforcement-actions
- The Commodities and Futures Trading Commission's Crypto assets webpage:
 - www.cftc.gov/digitalassets/index.htm
- The Federal Trade Commission's Cryptocurrency Consumer advice webpage:
 - https://consumer.ftc.gov/search-terms/cryptocurrency



Safety Tips:

Protect Your Personal and Financial Information

- Don't return phone calls to numbers left on your voice mail
- Unknown caller? Don't answer or hang up.
- Never give your personal information unless you initiated the contact
- Government agencies DO NOT CALL you
- Do not click on unknown links
- Use a shredder for your mail and personal documents
- DO NOT drop off mail after pick up hours
- Use anti-theft gel pens for checks and other signature documents
- Don't just close your Internet browser be sure to log out of websites.
- Limit information on social media!



Stay Connected to the DFPI!

- Subscribe to our newsletter: <u>www.DFPI.ca.gov/subscribe</u>
- Check out our other events: <u>www.DFPI.ca.gov/events</u>
- Call: (866) 275-2677
- Email: <u>Ask.DFPI@dfpi.ca.gov</u>
- Web: <u>www.DFPI.ca.gov</u>
- Social Media: <u>www.DFPI.ca.gov/#social</u>

Thank You!





JOE BURDICK SANTA CLARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE





Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office

Senior Fraud Prevention



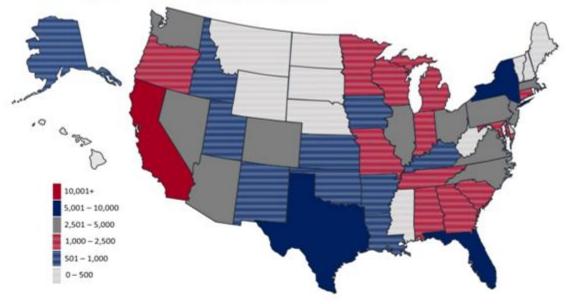
Presented by: Joe Burdick **District Attorney Investigator** Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office **Financial Elder Abuse Unit** Financial Abuse Specialist Team Member ٠

The Problem



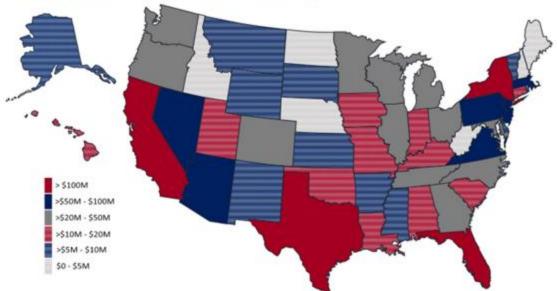
The number of elder fraud victims had been on the rise and jumped by 54.8% in 2020, although it came down in 2021. Losses, on the other hand, have been rapidly climbing every year. From 2017 to 2021, **losses** were up by 391.9%.

YEAR	NUMBER OF ELDER FRAUD VICTIMS	TOTAL LOSSES
2017	49,523	\$342,531,972
2018	62,085	\$649,227,724
2019	68,013	\$835,164,766
2020	105,301	\$966,062,236
2021	92,371	\$1,685,017,829
		Data source: Federal Bureau of Investigation (2022).



2021 - STATES BY NUMBER OF OVER 60 VICTIMS⁴

2021 - STATES BY LOSSES OF OVER 60 VICTIMS



WHAT IS "ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE?"

 *60 years or older • Use or acquisition of an elder's money or assets contrary to the elder's wishes, needs or best interests For the abuser's personal gain Reasonably knowing that the victim is an elder or dependent adult

WHY TARGET ELDERS?

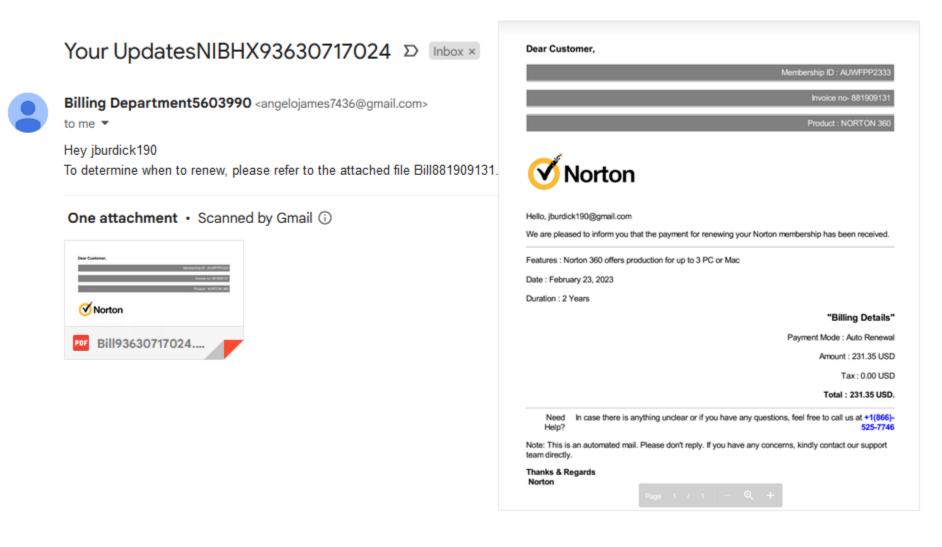
- They've had more time to build wealth than younger adults and could have substantial assets, such as properties, savings, and retirement accounts.
- Some are more vulnerable due to the effects of aging and health issues.
- Some live alone and are more trusting in strangers due to loneliness.
- They may not want to report fraud because of embarrassment, or because they fear being considered unable to manage their own finances

TYPE OF ELDER FRAUD	NUMBER OF VICTIMS (2021)	TOTAL LOSSES (2021)
Confidence fraud/romance	7,658	\$432,081,901
Business email/email account compromise	3,755	\$355,805,098
nvestment	2,104	\$239,474,635
Fech support	13,900	\$237,931,278
Personal data breach	6,189	\$103,688,489
Real estate/rental	1,764	\$102,071,631
Government impersonation	3,319	\$69,186,858
dentity theft	8,902	\$59,022,153
_ottery/sweepstakes/inheritance	2,607	\$53,557,330
Non-payment/non-delivery	13,220	\$52,023,580
Credit card fraud	3,164	\$39,019,072
Advanced fee*	3,029	\$36,464,491

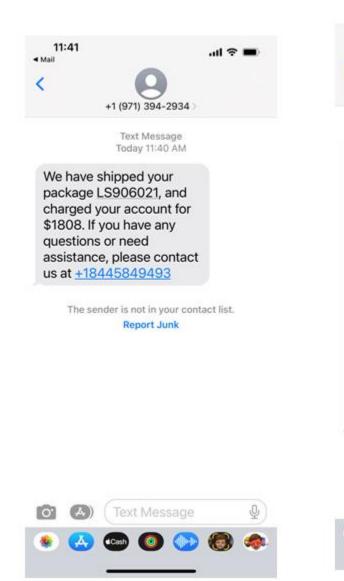


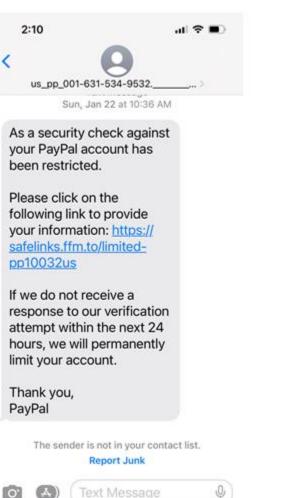
Top Scams Targeting Seniors

Business Imposters / Phishing E-Mail



Business Imposters / Text Messages





2:09 al 🕆 🔳 verifys.0uq9j-0uq9j@mailserver501... From: Account-Amazon Notification Msg: We have discovered an issue with your billing information. Please review your information carefully.. ID#XZVARLCAKV You're only required to follow the steps to recover your account: 1. Sign in to your account. 2. Follow the step to see your case. 3. Resolve the problem by completing the instruction. Update Information Here : https://luck356.cfd/ V6BazIA You can't access your Text Message 📼 🙆 💮 👩 🧆 A -

Business Imposters / Tech Support / Payment Service

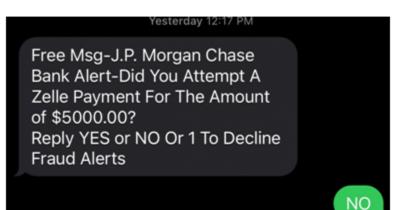
"Before I get into the details, I need to verify that I'm speaking to the right person. What's your username?"

In the background, they're using the username with the forgot password feature, and that's going to generate two-factor authentication passcodes.

I'm going to send you the password and you're going to read it back to me over the phone.'"

The scammer then uses the code to complete the password reset process, and then changes the victim's online banking password. The fraudster then uses Zelle to transfer the victim's funds to another account

Scammers never even need to know or phish the victim's password





Call center making fraudulent calls in Bangalore, India.



In The News

	An official website of the United States government	Here's how you	know v					
	/ enu							
	United States	About EDVA Find Help	Contact Us					
	Attorney's Office			Search	Q			
	Eastern District of Virginia							
About ~	News Services & Programs ~	Careers	Contact Us					
Justice.gov > U.S. Attorneys > Eastern District of Virginia > Press Releases > Leader of International Robocall Scam Sentenced for Defrauding Over 4,000 U.S. Victims Out of More Than \$10 Million								

PRESS RELEASE

Leader of International Robocall Scam Sentenced for Defrauding Over 4,000 U.S. Victims Out of More Than \$10 Million

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Share

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. – An Indian national was sentenced today to 22 years in prison for conspiracy and identity theft in connection with his operation of an overseas robocall scam that defrauded thousands of victims out of more than \$10 million.

"This defendant has been sentenced to 22 years in prison for being the mastermind and leader of an extensive multimillion-dollar robocall scheme that, from overseas, exploited over 4,000 American victims," said Raj Parekh, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern

 IRS/Treasury Department scam calls / texts – the IRS or Treasury Department will not contact you by phone if you are late or have not paid taxes. These are impostors!





Sweepstakes / Lottery Scams

The initial contact in a sweepstakes scam is often a call, an email, a social media notification or a piece of direct mail offering congratulations for winning some big contest.

But there's a catch: You'll be asked to pay a fee, taxes or customs duties to claim your prize. The scammers may request your bank account information, urge you to send money via a wire transfer, or suggest you purchase gift cards and give them the card numbers.

BA BABCO

BABCOCK, JACOB A
babcocj@email.sc.edu>
Mon 1/27/2020 10:40 AM
BABCOCK, JACOB A; BABCOCK, JACOB A



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Your email was selected in Powerball Lottery Draw with the sum of 1.5million dollars .kindly send your Full Name,Address and phone number for claims

Yours Sincerely Mr James Walter Head of Operations



Romance Scams

Signs of Romance Fraud, Indicators that you have fallen for a scam; (1)



- Professes Love Quickly, Soul Mate, lifelong relationship
- Claims to be from the United States but is overseas for business, offshore oil rig or military service.
- Meets you on a dating site but quickly has you move to a site like WhatsApp, WeChat, Telegram.
- Promises to meet in person, but there are always excuses. Those excuses quickly turn to financial excuses.

Types of Money Mules

Unwitting or Unknowing

- Individuals are unaware they are part of a larger scheme
- May be told to keep a portion of the money they transferred
- Motivated by trust in the actual existence of their romance or job position

Witting

- Individuals ignore obvious red flags or act willfully blind
- May have been warned by bank employees they were involved with fraudulent activity
- Open accounts with multiple banks in their true name

Complicit

- Individuals are aware of their role and actively participate
- Travel, as directed, to different countries to open financial accounts or register companies
- Recruit other money mules
- Motivated by financial gain or loyalty to a known criminal group

HOW TO AVOID FINANCIAL ABUSE

Most scams rely on older victims panicking, becoming flustered, or making hasty decisions.

- **STOP**: Take a moment and think about the situation. Does anything feel suspicious?
- LEAVE: Hang up, close the door, delete the text, or close the email. If someone is pressing you to act now, they could be a con artist.
- ASK: Call a family member for advice, search online for more details, and find out if the organizations you're speaking to are real. You can also ask a visitor for identification.
- WAIT: Take the time to absorb what you've learned and make a plan of action. Don't rush any decisions.
- ACT: Only visit legitimate websites and call verified, safe phone numbers. You
 can use independent review websites and email address lookup services to check
 someone's identity.

REPORTING

All Fraud can always be reported to Adult Protective Services in your area. 1-800-414-2002

- through the mail, report to the USPIS
- on the internet, FTC at <u>ReportFraud.ftc.gov</u>
- on the phone, contact the FTC
- on TV or radio, contact the FTC
- in person, call local police first



Investigator Joe Burdick

- Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office
- (408) 792-2330
- jburdick@dao.sccgov.org



OUESTIONS & ANSWERS?



Thank you for joining us!

For more information, please contact us at

Assemblymember Alex Lee Email: Assemblymember.Lee@asm.ca.gov Phone: (408) 262-2501 | (916) 319-2024 Website: a24.asmdc.org

