



REPORT FRAUD AND SCAMS:

State and local fraud matters:

Contact your local *Police Department* or *State Attorney General's Office*.

Mail Fraud, Lottery/Sweepstakes Fraud:

Contact the *U.S. Postal Inspection Service* at 1-800-372-8347

Internet Fraud and Lottery/Sweepstakes Fraud by Internet:

Contact the *Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)* at www.ic3.gov.

General fraud and other criminal matters:

Contact the *FBI* at (202) 324-3000, or online at <https://tips.fbi.gov>.

Consumer Fraud and Identity Theft:

Contact the *Federal Trade Commission* at 1-877-FTC-HELP or 1-877-ID-THEFT, respectively.

Securities Fraud:

Contact the *Securities and Exchange Commission* at 1-800-SEC-0330 or enforcement@sec.gov.

Health Care Fraud and Medicare/Medicaid Fraud, and related matters:

Contact the *Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General* at 1-800-HHS-TIPS or at HHSTips@oig.hhs.gov.

Disaster-related Fraud:

Please contact the *National Center for Disaster Fraud* at (877) NCDF GCF (623-3423), fax (225) 334-4707 or disaster@leo.gov. Correspondence may be sent to: National Center for Disaster Fraud, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909

The Sunapee Police Department frequently receives complaints of fraud and attempted scams. Here are some of the most common:

The Family Member-in-Need Scam

This scam involves a phone call from someone pretending to be a family member, usually your grandchild, niece, nephew, etc. or someone calling on his or her behalf. He or she is in dire need of money for travel expenses, bail money, or other emergency expense and will ask you to send them money as soon as possible. These actors are good at what they do and will sound very convincing.

“Free” Medical Alert Device Scam

You answer the phone and a recorded voice warns you of the increasing number of deaths and/or injuries from falls or other medical emergencies that can occur when you live alone. The recorded voice will instruct you to “Press 1” for details on how to receive your “free” medical alert device. If you press 1, a live telemarketer comes on the line stating that your bank information or credit card information is needed for monitoring or other expense associated with the “free” device.

Sweepstakes Winner Scam

You receive a call, letter or e-mail message stating that you have won a contest or sweepstakes that **you never entered**, or you have been randomly selected to win a prize. You will be asked for bank account information so your winnings can be sent or wired to you.

On-line Purchase Scam

You post an item for sale on Craig’s List or another on-line vendor service. You receive a message from someone very interested in your item who agrees to purchase it. You receive a check in payment for the item, but it is made out for far more money than the purchase price of the item and the “buyer” will give you a very plausible sounding reason as to why this is the case. The “buyer” will ask you to send your own check to return the overpayment.

DON'T BE SCAMMED!

Never provide a caller, e-mail or letter sender with your personal, bank account or credit card information. Although these requests may appear genuine, no legitimate person or business would ask for your information in a phone call, e-mail message or letter.

If you want to report a scam or attempted scam, see the column to the left for how and where to do so.