



Honoring our elders

Be aware of common scams

Local Resources:

- **Adult Protective Services**
707-476-2100
- **The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program**
707-269-1330
- **Legal Services of Northern California**
707-445-0866
- **Redwood Coast PACE Senior Legal Assistance Program**
707-443-9747 ext. 245

Federal Resources:

- **The National Fraud Hotline**
800-269-0271
- **California Dept. of Justice**
800-952-5225
 - This unit investigates cases of fraud and abuse against seniors.
- **Social Security's Fraud Hotline**
866-720-5721
- **AARP Fraud Fighter**
877-908-3360



Protect yourself from scams

Don't give personal information or send money via wire transfer, gift card or prepaid debit card to someone you don't know and have only communicated with online or over the telephone. Scam emails often look legitimate. Never open an attachment or click on a link in an unsolicited email.

Online Shopping Scams

People posing as employees of companies like Amazon call or email and claim something is wrong with an account or order, then ask for personal information. Amazon will never ask for sensitive information over the phone, or for payments to be made outside of its website. The

best thing to do is hang up, check your account yourself and change your password. People posing as employees of companies like Amazon call or email and claim something is wrong with an account or order, then ask for personal information. Amazon will never ask for sensitive information over the phone, or for payments to be made outside of its website. The best thing to do is hang up, check your account yourself and change your password. .

Celebrity Impersonator Scams

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are full of bogus celebrity accounts set up to deceive devoted fans. Scammers ask for money under a variety of pretexts, such as exclusive tickets to private meet-and-greets. They may even reach out to the real star's followers, claiming to be interested in a romantic relationship. Look for the blue checkmark on celebrity social media accounts. That indicates the platform has verified it as genuine. If there's no checkmark, it's an impostor.

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Government Impostor Scams

Fake Social Security Administration (SSA) employees call people with warnings that their Social Security numbers have been linked to criminal activity and suspended. The scammers ask you to confirm your number so they can reactivate it or issue you a new one, for a fee. In another version, a recorded voice says your bank account is at risk due to the illicit activity and offers to help you keep it safe. Social Security does not block or suspend numbers, ever. You can call Social Security's customer service line at 800-772-1213 to confirm whether a call from SSA is real.

Charity Scams

Fake charities often pop up during disasters, like the COVID-19 pandemic. Be skeptical of fundraising calls or emails for COVID-19 victims or virus research. Scammers will also use charities supported by actual celebrities to get money from their followers. Make sure a charity is legitimate before donating.

Grandparent and Military Service Member Scams

A scammer pretends to be a grandchild or a member of your family serving in the military, contacts you claiming to be sick or in trouble, and asks you for money to pay for fake medical, legal or travel expenses. Hang up and contact your relative directly (or through other family members) to make sure they are who they claim to be.

COVID-19 Scams

Be wary of emails, calls and social media posts advertising government-ordered COVID tests or vaccine lotteries. Check the FDA website for a list of approved tests and testing companies. Ignore phone calls or emails from strangers urging you to invest in a hot new stock from a company working on coronavirus-related products or services.



humboldt.gov/DHHS

707-268-3447 (DHHS)