

SIGNS OF A SCAM

- Pressure to act immediately
- Scare tactics to sell a product
- Refuse to stop calling when you tell them you aren't interested
- Demand payment for taxes or fees for a prize
- Demand payment by wire or courier

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF A VICTIM

- Receiving junk mail for contests
- Frequent calls offering prizes or awards
- Numerous check withdrawals, possibly made out to unfamiliar, out of state companies
- Sudden problems paying bills, food, and other necessities

HOW TO HELP A VICTIM OF FRAUD

- Don't blame the person — con artists are good at what they do
- Don't threaten to take away the person's financial or physical independence
- Do help to assemble information to report the fraud
- Do help the person identify telemarketing fraud
- Do help the person change their telephone number, if necessary

HELPFUL WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Non-Emergency
703-792-6500

Crime Prevention Unit
703-792-7270

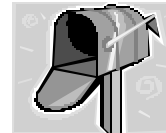
REDUCE UNWANTED PHONE CALLS

National Do Not Call Registry
1-888-382-1222
www.donotcall.gov



REDUCE JUNK MAIL

Send letter To:
Direct Marketing Association
Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512
[www.the-dma-org/consumers/
offmailinglist.htm1](http://www.the-dma-org/consumers/offmailinglist.htm1)



CHECK OUT A CHARITY

www.give.org

REPORT A SCAM

National Consumers League
Fraud Hotline
1-800-876-7060
www.fraud.org

Virginia Office of the Attorney General
1-800-451-1525
www.oag.state.va.us

Federal Trade Commission
1-877-382-4357
www.ftc.gov

SCAMS AND FRAUDS



**Prince William County
Police Department**

TYPES OF SCAMS AND FRAUDS

- Sweepstakes
- Lotteries
- Travel/Vacation
- Investment Scams
- Charitable Donations

The scams listed above are just a few examples. Con Artists are constantly finding new ways to con their victims.

HOW DO CROOKS CONTACT YOU?

- Phone (most common)
- Mail
- Print
- E-mail

CHARITY SCAMS

- *Be aware of 'sound alike' charities.* Some crooks will use a name that is similar to a legitimate charity.
- *Ask for written information.* A legitimate charity will be happy to provide its Annual Report on how the money is used.
- *Be cautious after a natural or other disaster.* Crooks take advantage of these situations and trick people who want to help.
- *Unfamiliar charity?* Check them out. Most states require charities to register and provide an annual report.

TELEMARKETING FRAUD

- *Fraudulent telemarketers understand human behavior.* We want to believe it's our lucky day.
- *Older citizens are targeted.* They are home to answer the phone, have savings, and might be too polite to hang up on the telemarketer.
- *How you pay matters.* If you pay by check or cash, you lose the money. Pay by credit card to dispute charges.
- *Be aware of someone using the name of a company you might do business with.* Contact the company directly before giving personal information.
- *Never give a caller your social security number, credit card or bank account information.* It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- *REMEMBER,* if an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is?

DO'S AND DON'TS

- **Do** ask telemarketers for the name and address of their company, and a clear explanation of the offer they are making.
- **Do** ask the caller to send you written material to study, including the money back guarantee, before making a purchase.
- **Do** ask about the company's refund policies.
- **Do** call the Better Business Bureau, your state Attorney General's office, or the local consumer protection service in the state or city where the company is located, and ask if any complaints have been made against the firm.

- **Do** talk to family and friends or call your lawyer, accountant, etc., to get advice before you make any large purchase or investment.
- **Do** ask that your telephone number be removed from telemarketing lists if you don't want to be called.
- **Do** report suspicious telemarketing calls, junk mail solicitations, or advertisements.
- **Do** call the National Fraud Information Center at 1-800-876-7060.
- **Don't** pay for any prize or send money to improve your chances of winning. It's illegal to ask you to pay to enter a contest.
- **Don't** allow any caller to intimidate you or bully you into buying something "right now". If the caller says, "You have to make up your mind right now," or "We must have your money today," it's probably a scam.
- **Don't** give any caller your bank account number. They can use it to withdraw money from your account at any time without your knowledge or permission.
- **Don't** give your credit card number to anyone over the telephone unless you've made the call.
- **Don't** wire money or send money by an overnight delivery service unless you initiated the transaction.

Follow these Do's and Don'ts to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of telemarketing fraud!