

DETECTING AND AVOIDING PHONE SCAMMERS



1: NEVER give personal information over the phone

Scammers will try to get you to give personal information like your address, driver's license, credit card or social security number. Don't give to anyone you aren't 100% sure is a legitimate source.

2: Screen phone calls whenever possible

Scammers often use robo-dialing software that will hang up if no one answers the phone. Those that DO leave a message, allow you the chance to validate the callback number and information.

3: Validate all information left in a message

Scammers sometimes leave callback information. Verify the number through an internet search before calling back. If it doesn't exactly match what they claim, DO NOT call them back.

4: Utilities and government agencies will NOT demand payment through pre-paid debit cards

Many phone scams involve scaring the victim with cutting off the water, gas or power to their homes. Often, they will demand payment through a pre-paid debit card purchased from a convenience store. This is ALWAYS a scam.

5: Your Social Security number CANNOT be suspended

A popular scam currently involves the scammer telling the victim their social security number has been suspended or frozen. The Social Security Administration does not do that ever. Any questions about Social Security can be answered by calling their main phone number. (800) 772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

6: If unsure, call your local law enforcement agency

Your local police or sheriff's agency will be glad to answer any questions you have about potential scams.



IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CALL 310-675-4444

