



RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

4450 WEST STREETSBORO ROAD RICHFIELD, OH 44286

PHONE 330-659-9500 FAX 330-659-0677



Fraud and scams can come in many forms, some occur through phone calls, websites, emails, internet or in person. Unfortunately, these types of scams are on the rise. Please review the current trends and steps we can all take to prevent financial victimization of the members of our community.

In 2021 the FBI reported that over 92,000 seniors in the country fell victim to fraud with losses of approximately \$1.6 billion. The average loss to each victim was over \$18,000 with 3,133 reporting that they lost over \$100,000. These statistics represent a 74% increase from losses recorded in 2020. The only way to prevent this kind of crime is to educate our seniors, and other community members, of the scams we see and not engage when they call.

Common types of scams:

- Imposter fraud – scammers pretend to be IRS or other government agency and claim that you need to send money because of a pending arrest warrant.
- Grandparent fraud - scammers pose as your grandchild, or government official or lawyer, and claim that your grandchild needs money for bail or some other kind of emergency.
- Tech Support fraud – scammers pose as Amazon, Apple or other tech company and tell you that you have been hacked and they need access to your computer, or finances, to confirm fraud.
- Sweepstakes/Lottery fraud – scammers contact you to advise that you have won a large sum of money, but request up-front payment for taxes or processing fees.

Common traits of scams that you can recognize:

- Scammers will usually pressure you to act immediately and have a sense of urgency to the situation. They use social engineering techniques to convince people to act before they think.
- Scammers typically try to keep you on the phone while you complete whatever task they are asking of you, so that you do not have a chance to consult with relatives or police.
- Scammers will ask you to transfer them money in unconventional ways such as purchasing gift cards, bitcoin or wire transfers.
- Scammers will also sometimes attempt to isolate you by giving you specific instructions about what to say to family members, police, bank employees or store clerks when purchasing gift cards.

A legitimate company will NEVER call you and request payment for any service using gift cards. A government agency will NEVER contact you by phone to request payment for anything. If there is ever an instance where someone is asking for payment over the phone DO NOT pay and call police to report the incident.

If you ever have any doubt of the legitimacy of a phone call, email or letter, ESPECIALLY if they are asking for payment of any kind or personal information, call the Richfield Police Department and we will be happy to assist you.