

# #SLAM THE SCAM



## BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

Beware of scammers posing as government officials, bank employees, or health professionals. They want your money and sensitive personal information, including Social Security number, Medicare number, credit card information, and bank account information.



## HOW SCAMMERS CAN REACH YOU



PHONE



SOCIAL MEDIA



EMAIL



WEBSITES



IN PERSON

## COMMON SCAMS



- Sell you fake respiratory masks, COVID-19 testing or vaccine kits, or COVID-19 cures.
- Ask for charity donations. You can look up charities at [give.org](https://give.org), [charitynavigator.org](https://charitynavigator.org) or <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search>
- Promise direct deposit of your stimulus check.
- Tell you your Social Security check has been cancelled due to COVID-19 and try to get your personal information to verify.
- Offer “relief money” to those affected by COVID-19.
- Say a loved one needs money wired for their treatment or bail.
- Contact you pretending to be from the WHO, CDC, or a volunteer agency.
- Ask you to download a mobile app that tracks and sends you COVID-19 updates.

## REPORT SUSPECTED ELDER ABUSE



If you suspect someone you know may be a victim of elder abuse, call the **Elder Abuse Hotline** 24-hour/7-days-a-week at 1-800-922-2275. Elder abuse includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, caretaker neglect, financial exploitation, and self neglect.



Peabody Council on Aging  
Pride in Peabody ~ Because we Care



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# RECOGNIZE



- A sense of urgency. Scammers will use the words “urgent”, “act now”, “important”, and “official” to pressure you into acting quickly.
- Asking for payment via wire transfer or gift cards.
- Requesting your Social Security number, Medicare number, credit card information, or bank account information.
- Links from unknown or unverified sources. Official government websites will always end in .gov, .edu or .org
- Purported government agencies contacting you by phone, email, or social media.
- Emails from personal accounts—beware of emails from Yahoo, Hotmail, Gmail, AOL addresses, etc.
- Websites that look like important COVID-19 news and information sources. These sites could install malware on your computer that damage your computer or gain unauthorized access to you information.
- Unverified apps. These apps can lock your phone and steal data from your device. Only download apps with a verified publisher from Google Play or Apple Store.

## RESOURCES



- **Please Report Scams:** If you spot a scam please report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Your complaint can help protect other people. Call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or TTY 1-866-653-4261
- **Attorney General's Elder hotline:** (888) 243-5337. TTY: (617) 727-4765
- **Essex District Attorney Paul F. Tucker :** (978) 745-6610
- **Office of the Inspector General Social Security Administration, Fraud Hotline:** 1-800-269-0271 or 1-800-772-1213
- **Mail Fraud Call Criminal Investigations Service Center:** 1-877-876-2455
- **Senior Legal Helpline** (800) 342-5297 Legal help for elders
- **Lawyer of the Day for Peabody Veterans:** Call Veteran Services 978-538-5925
- **Long-Term Care Ombudsman:** (617) 727-7750
- **Peabody Police Elder Affairs Officer, Richard Cameron:** 978-538-6300 x1463



## STAY CONNECTED

- **Peabody Council on Aging:** 978-531-2254
- **AgeSpan:** Peabody's Aging Services Access Point 1-800-892-0890

