



# Avoid Scams



It is important to know how to identify scams. This is one of the most important steps to protect yourself.





Check out these guides for help:

- 🔍 [Consumer Guide for Maryland](#)
- 🔍 [Avoid Fraud](#)
- 🔍 [Credit and Debt Relief Scams](#)
- 🔍 [Phony Debt Collection](#)

**Do not** give out personal information over the phone, the internet, or by mail. This includes:

- Birthday and Social Security Numbers
- Bank account and credit card numbers
- Passwords

Scammers may pretend to be:

-  The Bank
-  The Government like the IRS
-  Businesses or Debt Collectors
-  Friends and Family

If you encounter a scam report it! Reporting scams helps protect you and others.

[File a Complaint or Report Fraud](#)  
[File a Consumer Complaint](#)  
[Scam Tracker](#)

These places have additional information on scams.

[AARP Scams and Fraud](#)  
[Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \(CFPB\)](#)  
[Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#)

The [Consumer Protection Division](#) is a part of the Office of the Attorney General. They help track consumer complaints and help to protect Maryland consumers.

Call their hotline for help: **(410)- 528- 8662**

En español: (410)- 230- 1712