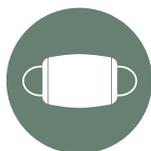




Getting Through This, Together

COMMON COVID-19-RELATED SCAMS



- Sell you fake respiratory masks, COVID-19 testing or vaccine kits, or COVID-19 cures.
- Contact you pretending to be from the WHO, CDC, or a volunteer agency.
- Say a loved one has contracted COVID-19 and needs money wired for treatment.
- Offer “relief money” to those affected by COVID-19.



- Tell you your Social Security check has been canceled due to COVID-19 and try to get your personal information to verify.
- Ask for charity donations [You can look up charities at [give.org](https://www.give.org) or [charitynavigator.org](https://www.charitynavigator.org)].



- Promise direct deposit of your stimulus check for a fee.
- Ask you to download a mobile app that tracks and sends you COVID-19 updates.
- Use the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to steal your identity and commit Medicare/Medicaid fraud.

HOW SCAMMERS CONTACT YOU



PHONE



SOCIAL MEDIA



EMAIL



WEBSITE



IN-PERSON



RED FLAGS

- A sense of urgency. Scammers will use words like “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.
- Purported government agencies contacting you by phone, email, or social media.
- Emails from personal accounts like Yahoo, Hotmail, Gmail or AOL.
- Websites that look like important COVID-19 news and information sources.
- Apps that have not been verified by Google Play or Apple Store.



Getting Through This, Together

SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

- **San Luis Obispo County Crime Stoppers:** Anonymously assist in solving crime in partnership with the public, police, and media—download P3 Tips mobile app or sanluisobispocountycrimestoppersweb.com.
- **Santa Barbara Center for Successful Aging:** Senior peer counseling 805-898-8080.
- **San Luis Obispo Senior Peer Counseling:** 805-547-7025 Ext15.
- **Senior Connection:** Senior information and assistance service 805-928-2552.
- **VA Caregiver Support Line:** 855-260-3274.
- **California Friendship Line:** Emotional support, wellbeing checks 888-670-1360 <https://www.ioaging.org/friendship-line-california>
- **Cybercrime Support Network** <https://cybercrimesupport.org/covid-19-scam-alerts>
- Other Benefits and relief you may be eligible for: <https://www.coronavirus.gov>

REPORT SUSPECTED ELDER ABUSE

- Santa Barbara County District Attorney Elder Abuse Unit/Fraud Hotline:
English 805-568-2442
Español 805-346-7454
- San Luis Obispo County District Attorney Elder Abuse Unit 805-781-5800
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman to report suspected abuse at care facilities:
San Luis Obispo County 805-785-0132
Santa Barbara County 805-922-1236
- Adult Protective Services 844-751-6729 to report suspected elder dependent adult abuse.
- National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-372-8311 <https://stopelderfraud.ovc.ojp.gov>



LEGAL REFERRALS

- **Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County:**
Santa Maria 805-922-9909
Lompoc 805-963-6754
Santa Barbara 805-963-6754
- **San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation** (free legal services for seniors aged 60 and older in SLO County):
805-543-5140
SLOAF.org

Elder Justice Resource Guide for Action, including contact information for reporting senior financial abuse at centralcoastseniors.org