

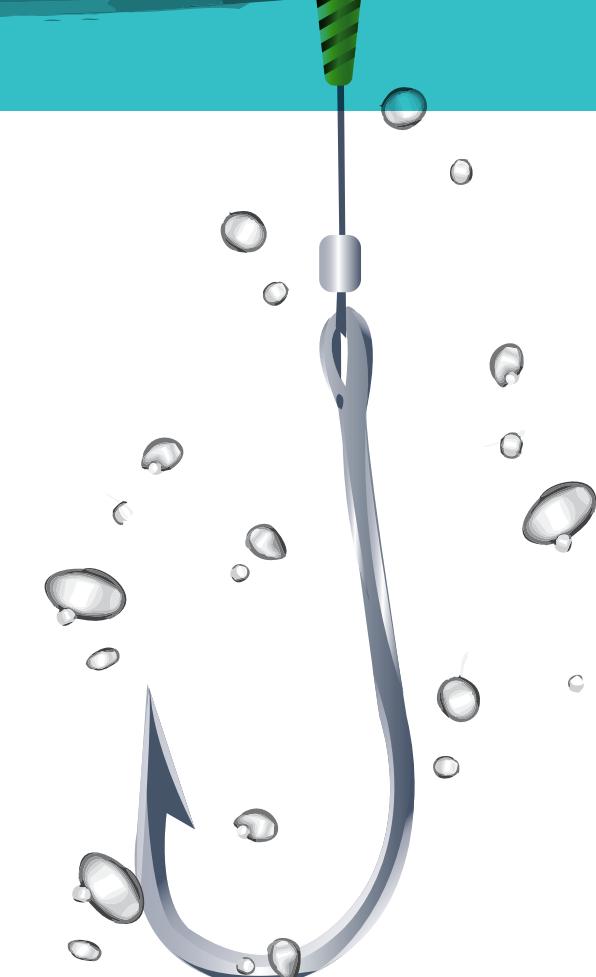


Safety

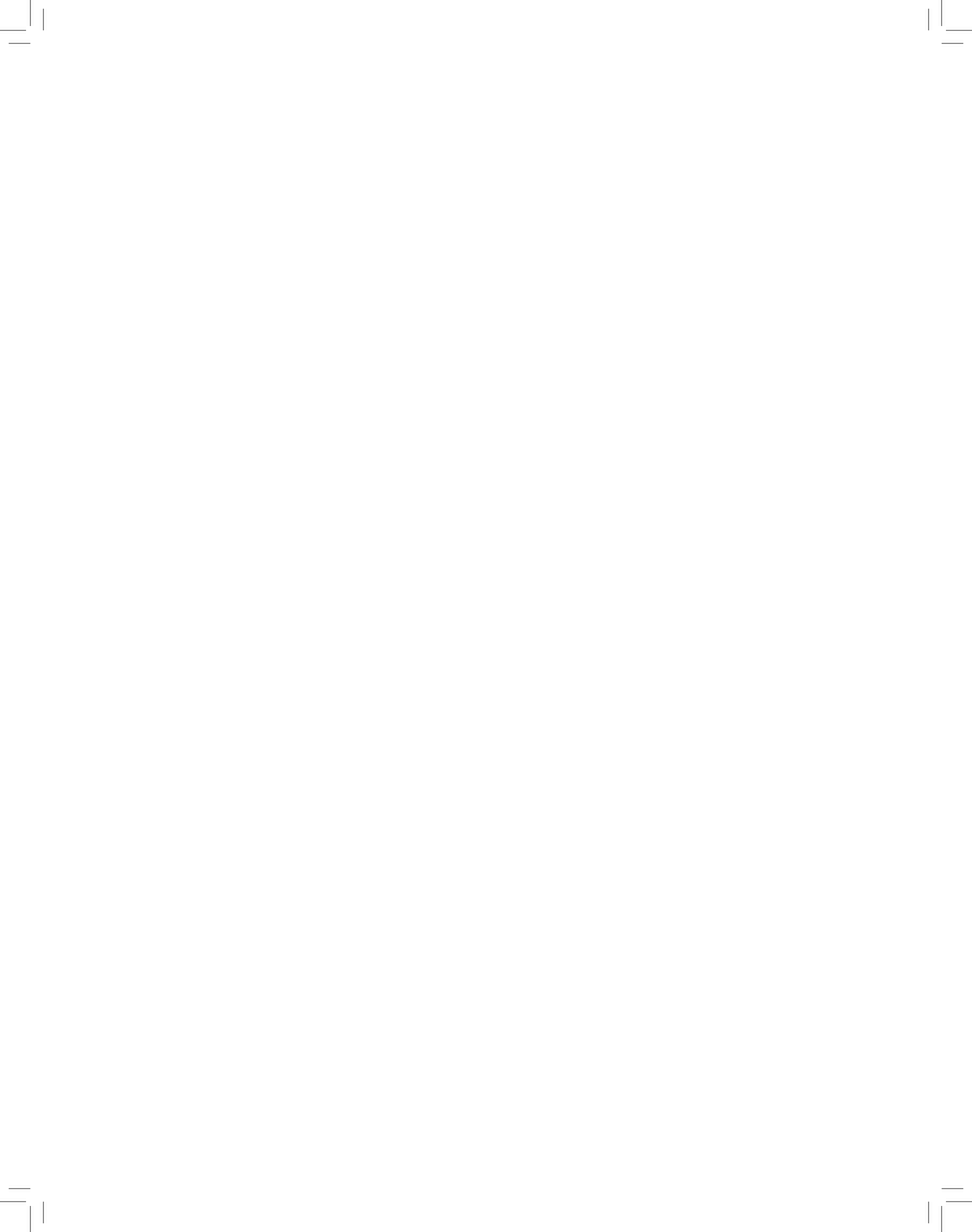
# Don't Get Hooked

Learn how to avoid getting reeled in by common scams aimed at seniors.

Discover how to keep your loved ones from being lured by scammers' bait.



Important Safety Message  
Oakdale Police Department





Dear Oakdale Residents:

Too often, residents get hooked by con artists and scammers whose intent is to financially exploit them. It isn't just the elderly, as anyone who has received unsolicited and suspicious phone calls, mail or email spam can attest.

The Oakdale Police Department urges you to review this information and discuss it with loved ones, friends, and especially those who may need a little extra help. This booklet offers information on various scams, tips to avoid being exploited, and resources to help.

If you work in a financial institution, money transfer company or retail industry (which sells prepaid cards or money orders), you are in a unique position to stop a scam in progress. In fact, you may be the last person who can stop the customer from losing a large amount of his or her assets.

By staying alert, sharing concerns, and asking questions you can help protect yourself and others avoid financial harm.





# Section 1: Scam Facts

## Why Scammers Target Seniors



## Scam Facts



**1 in 5 individuals in the U.S. is aged 60+**



**1 in 13 older persons will be abused, neglected, and/or financially exploited**



**Only 1 in 44 elder financial abuse cases is ever reported to law enforcement**



**Financial abuse victims must turn to medical assistance when their own funds are stolen & run out**

## Ways to Protect Yourself

Be aware that you're at risk to strangers and those closest to you.

- Do not isolate yourself – stay involved.
- Always tell solicitors: “I never buy from or give to anyone who calls or visits me unannounced. Send me something in writing.”
- Always have a second line of defense at your front door, like a locked screen door or a security chain guard.
- Change your online password quarterly.
- Shred all receipts that contain your credit card number.
- Sign up for the “Do Not Call” list at 1-888-382-1222 and the “Opt Out Mailing” list at 1-888-567-8688.
- Use direct deposit for benefit checks.
- Obtain a credit check on yourself at least two or three times each year.
- Screen your caller ID for “private” or “unknown” callers.
- Never give your credit card, banking, Social Security, Medicare, or other personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call.
- Be skeptical of all unsolicited offers.
- Use a credit card instead of a debit card. Credit cards offer more protection in terms of compensation for fraudulent purchases.
- Change your passwords online if a computer has been infected with a virus.
- If you are having difficulty keeping track of your finances, hire a reputable fiduciary or professional to handle various aspects of your affairs. A public guardian may be appointed conservator by the Probate Court when no other alternatives are available.



## Section 1: Scam Facts

### Likely Perpetrators

- Strangers preying on older people who may be isolated, lonely, confused, or desperate for attention.
- Caregivers and persons in a position of trust who use fear or guilt to take advantage of a senior.
- Family members with a criminal history and/or a history of drug abuse, addiction, or unemployment.

### Signs that an Older Adult Might be in Trouble

- Unusual recent changes to a person's account, including atypical withdrawals, new person(s) added, or sudden repeated use of the seniors' ATM or credit card.
- A large check written to someone you don't know.
- A change in their power of attorney or the beneficiaries on their insurance or investment accounts.
- Unusual or unnecessary purchases, such as buying new golf clubs or a diamond bracelet.
- Unnecessary home repairs.
- Becoming close with a much younger person or inappropriate person.
- The senior appears confused, unkempt and afraid.
- Utility, rent, mortgage, medical, or other essential bills are unpaid despite adequate income.
- Caregiver will not allow others access to the senior.
- Piled up sweepstakes mailings, magazine subscriptions, or "free gifts," which means they may be on "sucker lists."





## Section 2: Scam Types

### Scams Targeting Seniors

- The Grandparent Scam
- Sweepstakes and Lottery Scams
- Telemarketing Scams
- Fraudulent Anti-Aging Products
- Health Care/Medicare/Health Insurance Fraud
- Counterfeit Prescription Drugs
- Investment Schemes
- Door-to-Door Solicitations
- Internet Fraud
- Homeowner/Reverse Mortgage Scam
- Work at Home Scam
- Identity Theft
- Legal Documents Scam
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or Other Governmental Agency Scams
- Home Repair Contractor Fraud
- Funeral and Cemetery Scams
- Charity Scams
- “Free Lunch” Seminars and Other Freebies



*Don't be afraid to talk about it and take action*



**KEEP CALM**  
& Hang Up



**KEEP CALM**  
& Shred It



**KEEP CALM**  
& Delete It



**KEEP CALM**  
& Plan Ahead



**KEEP CALM**  
& Seek Advice

*waiting could only make it worse*



## Section 2: Scam Types



### The Grandparent Scam

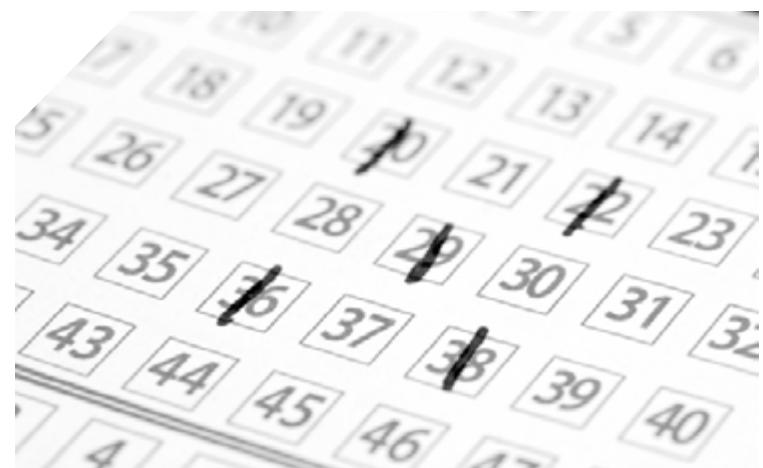
The scammer will call their potential victim and say, “Hi Grandma, do you know who this is?” The unsuspecting grandparent will guess the name of the grandchild that the scammer sounds like, and the scammer will establish that identity. The fake grandchild will typically ask for money to solve an unexpected financial problem, to be paid via Western Union or MoneyGram, which don’t always require identification to collect. Many of these scammers instruct seniors to get reloadable prepaid cards, such as “Green Dot.” “Green Dot” cards are prepaid credit cards available for purchase in most stores and can be reloaded up to \$500 at a time. This is a red flag as anyone can have access to the money attached to this card as long as they have the pin number.

#### Keep calm and...

- Hang up!
- Or check to confirm the caller is legitimate and someone you know before sending any money.

- Ask questions that would be difficult for a scammer to answer.
- Contact the person who the scammer claims to be.

Contact the money transfer service immediately to report a scam. You may be able to retrieve the money if the scammer hasn’t picked it up yet. If the money has been picked up, you won’t be able to get it back. With a reloadable prepaid card, the money can be quickly siphoned off with no chance of recovering those funds.



### Sweepstakes and Lottery Scams

Scammers inform their potential victim that they have won a lottery or sweepstakes and need to make a payment to unlock the prize. Often seniors will be sent a check to deposit, only for it to be rejected a few days later. The scammers will quickly collect money for supposed fees or taxes on the prize, which they pocket while the “prize money” is removed from the victim’s account.

#### Keep calm and...

- Hang up!
- Don’t pay for a “free prize.” If a caller says the payment is for taxes, he or she is violating federal law.



## Section 2: Scam Types



### Telemarketing

These fake calls are one of the most common schemes and are almost impossible to trace. When a successful deal has been made, the buyer's name is often shared with similar schemers who look for easy targets, causing the same person to be repeatedly defrauded.

#### Keep calm and...

- Hang up!
- Don't buy from an unfamiliar company.
- Always ask for and wait until you receive written material about any offer or charity.
- Obtain a salesperson's name, business identity, telephone number, street address, mailing address, and business license before completing a transaction.
- Find out what portion of the money is paid in commissions and what portion goes to the charity or investment.
- Ask yourself, "What guarantee do I really have that this salesperson will use my money in the manner we agreed upon?"
- Don't pay in advance for services.
- Be cautious of companies that want to send a messenger to your home.

- Don't pay for a "free prize." If a caller says the payment is for taxes, he or she is violating federal law.
- Realize your information is often brokered to telemarketers through third parties.
- If you've been victimized once, be wary of people who call offering to help recover your losses for a fee paid in advance.
- Always take your time when making a decision.

If you have information about a fraud, report it to local, state, and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

### Fraudulent Anti-Aging Products

Fake Botox in Arizona netted its distributors \$1.5 million in less than one year. Products like this can drain resources and sometimes a bad batch can have health consequences.

#### Keep calm and...

- Hang up!
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Ask questions about the product and do your own research on it before purchasing.
- Beware of products that claim to be "breakthroughs," "secret formulas" and/or claim to cure a variety of unrelated illnesses.
- Ask your doctor about the product.





## Section 2: Scam Types



### Health Care/Medicare/ Health Insurance Fraud

This type of fraud may include bills for services never received, selling unneeded devices or services to beneficiaries, someone using another person's medical card for his or her own use, or a company using false information to get a victim to join a plan.

#### Health Insurance Fraud: Keep calm and...

- Never sign blank insurance claim forms.
- Never give blanket authorization to a medical provider to bill for services rendered.
- Ask your medical providers what they will charge and what you will be expected to pay out of pocket.
- Carefully review your insurer's explanation of Benefits Statement and call your insurer and provider if you have questions.

- Do not do business with door-to-door or telephone salespeople who tell you that medical equipment services are free.
- Give your insurance/Medicare identification only to those who provide your medical services.
- Keep accurate records of all health care appointments.
- Know if your physician ordered equipment for you.

#### Medicare Scams: Keep calm and...

- Protect your Medicare number as you do your credit card numbers and do not allow anyone else to use it.
- Review your Medicare statements to be sure you have in fact received the services billed.
- Report suspicious activities to 1-800-MEDICARE
- For more information and reporting fraud: Visit Minnesota Department of Human Services at [www.mn.gov/dhs](http://www.mn.gov/dhs)



## Section 2: Scam Types

### Counterfeit Prescription Drugs

Many seniors are interested in products that offer to increase cognitive function, virility, physical condition, or prevent cancer. These scams operate on the Internet where seniors increasingly go to find better prices on specialized medications.

#### Keep calm and...

- Delete it!
- Use extreme caution with out-of-country purchases; ingredients are unknown and not FDA approved.
- Examine the packaging for any changes from one prescription to the next.
- Use caution when ordering prescription drugs online.
- Beware of products that claim to be a “special deal”.
- Consult with your doctor before purchasing a new prescription.
- Beware of products that claim to have no side effects.
- Alert your physician about any adverse side effects or if your condition does not improve.



### Investment Schemes

Pyramid schemes, complex financial products and requests to claim inheritance money all target and take advantage of older people.

#### Keep calm and...

- Hang up!
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Don’t invest unless you understand the deal.
- Verify the identities of the people and franchises you’re working with.
- Beware of claims of exaggerated earnings and extremely high yields.
- Consult an unbiased third party.
- Beware of high-pressure pitches.



## Section 2: Scam Types

### Door-to-Door Solicitations

They are simply seeking to separate you from your money. Do not be hurried or intimidated. If you choose to purchase from or use their services, get all the information and promises in writing. If you do purchase something from a door-to-door solicitor, you have the legal right to return it within three days.

### Keep calm and...

- Seek advice!
- Never sign anything on the spot, including forms and especially blank forms.
- Never meet a salesperson alone, especially in your home. Have a trusted advisor with you.
- The salesperson is trying to appear to be a friend, but remember that he or she is a stranger.
- Never sign or pay on the day a “deal” is presented.
- Demand copies of everything.
- Document all promises/guarantees in writing.
- Post a “No Solicitors” sign to reduce contacts.
- The City of Oakdale requires a permit and credentials to solicit.

### Internet Fraud

When you’re using the Internet, how do you protect yourself from identity thieves and hackers? As you consider online banking and shopping, how do you keep from having your account information stolen?

### Keep calm and...

- Delete it!
- Use unique, complex passwords for every online account and computing device: Eight or more characters including capital letters, lower case letters, numbers and special characters.
- Keep operating systems, applications and anti-virus programs up to date.
- Only download programs from trusted sources.

- Freeware and Shareware are both notoriously ridden with viruses.
- Limit the personal identifying information you post on social media sites and limit the number of people who can see it.
- Beware of phishing websites. If you are contacted by a financial institution asking you to provide information so they can change your password, you are communicating with a criminal. Don’t respond to these messages by clicking embedded links or calling numbers they provide.
- Only conduct financial business and transactions online through websites that are encrypted. Look to ensure that the website URL has https or shttp, rather than just http. An unencrypted website (http) should not be entrusted with sensitive financial information or payment card numbers.





## Section 2: Scam Types



### Homeowner/Reverse Mortgage Scams

Scammers like to take advantage of those who own their homes, which are valuable assets. For trusted information on reverse mortgages and consumer protections, visit: [www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org) and click ‘reverse mortgages’ or put ‘home equity’ in the search box.

#### Keep calm and...

- Hang up!
- Don’t respond to unsolicited advertisements.
- Beware of advertisements that claim you can own a home with no down payment.
- Don’t sign any documents that you don’t understand.
- Find a reverse mortgage counselor to answer your questions.

### Work at Home Scam

Scammers will post classified ads online and in print soliciting people to work from home. Some will ask people to buy their own equipment and supplies. Scammers may offer an “advanced payment,” then ask for a portion back. After the money is sent, the original check will bounce.

#### Keep calm and...

- Shred it!
- Be wary of classified ads or online job postings to work at home, including secret shoppers.
- Always verify that a company is legitimate.
- Check the Better Business Bureau:  
[www.bbb.org/Minnesota](http://www.bbb.org/Minnesota)



## Section 2: Scam Types



### Identity Theft

The scammer will use personal information (Social Security Number, credit card, or driver's license number) without the person's consent to access accounts, open up new accounts, or apply for loans or mortgages. This information can be obtained by looking over a victim's shoulder at an ATM or listening to a phone conversation, by looking through garbage for statements or preapproved credit cards, or emails that appear to be from a legitimate company asking a potential victim to update or verify personal information.

### Keep calm and...

- Shred it!
- Be careful with your mail — do not let incoming mail sit in your mail box for a long time. A locked mail box is more secure.
- When sending sensitive mail, consider dropping it off at a secure collection box or directly at the post office.
- Use a crisscross paper shredder.
- Monitor your bank and credit card statements.
- Do not fall for phishing scams — when in doubt, call the institution the email claims to come from or research the potential scam online.

- Beware of telephone scams — never give out personal information over the phone to someone who initiates contact with you.

### Legal Documents

Scammers will pressure their potential victim to sign a legal document quickly without getting a second opinion. These documents may include financial powers of attorney, trusts, wills, and advance directives.

### Keep calm and...

- Seek advice!
- Don't be pressured into signing quickly and always get a second opinion.
- Make sure you understand the different types of powers of attorney.
- Watch out for changes that have been made to documents without you knowing when, or how, it happened.
- Don't sign documents without meeting with an attorney in person.





## Section 2: Scam Types

### Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or Other Government Agency Scams

Scammers pose as government and public agency representatives, such as police, fire, courts and utilities. Scammers call claiming to be IRS employees, often with fake names and fake IRS badge numbers. The callers may claim that money is owed and needs to be paid via a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. Callers may also ask for private information, claiming that the person is owed a refund.

#### Keep calm and...

- **Hang up!**
- The IRS will **not** use unsolicited emails, text messages or social media to discuss taxes.
- The IRS will contact you by mail, **not** by phone
- Don't use pre-paid debit cards or wire transfers to pay anyone claiming to be the IRS over the phone.
- Beware of calls from the IRS, even if the caller ID says Internal Revenue Service or IRS on it.
- If you think you might owe taxes, call 1-800-829-1040 and an IRS employee will help with any payment issues.

Report incidents to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484 or [www.tigta.gov](http://www.tigta.gov)



### Home Repair Contractor Fraud

A contractor may ask for the money upfront—which could be 30-50 percent of the project cost—and then disappear. The scammer may agree to the extras you want, but then never put them in the contract and ask for additional payment for those services.

#### Keep calm and...

1. **Hang Up!**
2. Obtain three detailed written estimates prior to making a repair or renovation.
3. Discuss the decision with family and friends.
4. Contact the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry 1-800-342-5354 or [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)
5. Check with the Better Business Bureau at 1-800-646-6222 or [www.bbb.org/Minnesota](http://www.bbb.org/Minnesota) regarding complaints and resolutions.
6. Carefully read all contracts and purchasing agreements prior to signing and make certain all requirements have been put in writing.
7. Make sure you understand all contract cancellation and refund terms.
8. Do not allow yourself to be pressured into make purchases, signing contracts, or committing funds. An initial deposit should be only ten (10) percent of the total, to a maximum of \$1000.00.





## Section 2: Scam Types

### Funeral and Cemetery Scams

Scammers may read obituaries and call or attend the funeral service of a complete stranger to take advantage of the grieving widow or widower by claiming the deceased had an outstanding debt with them.

Untrustworthy funeral homes may add unnecessary charges to the bill in the assumption that family members are unfamiliar with the cost of funeral services.

#### Keep calm and...

- Plan ahead!
- Make decisions in advance to avoid emotional overspending and pressure to purchase any services or goods you don't need.
- Compare prices of at least two different funeral homes.
- Ask to see a price list and a catalog of caskets to view all options.

### Charity Scams

Con artists try to collect funds for non-existent charities. Only give to those you know are reliable. Beware of copycat or similar names to reputable charities. Ask for written information and proof that your contribution is tax-deductible. Check with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office to determine if the organization is registered. Registration documents will also contain financial information about the organization, shedding light on how much money it raises and how it spends its funds: 1-800-366-4812; [www.ag.state.mn.us/charity](http://www.ag.state.mn.us/charity)

The Better Business Bureau also maintains a list of charities: [www.bbb.org/Minnesota](http://www.bbb.org/Minnesota); 1-800-646-6222

### “Free Lunch” Seminars and Other Freebies

Older adults are frequently invited to seminars that offer a free meal and information about investment opportunities, insurance products or wills and trusts. These seminars are rarely about education; they want to recruit new clients and sell products. They may try to sell you unsuitable investments or convince you to replace your existing investments. Often they follow up the luncheon with an attempt to meet you one-on-one at your home. Likewise, any time you enter a contest or raffle, you are requested to give information about yourself, even if it's just your address or email address. Again, you are opening yourself up to sales calls. Often the lists of names and addresses are sold to other salespeople and, sadly, to scammers. Accepting “free” gifts can end up quite expensive in the long run.

#### Keep calm and...

- Decline!
- Avoid attending free seminars.
- Ask for professional referrals from people you trust if you need investment advice or help with key documents, such as a will.
- Don't enter any contest or raffle that requires you to provide any personal information.





## Section 2: Scam Types

### Real Life Scams

We live in the land of 10,000 lakes, but not all fishing in Minnesota involves walleyes. **Dont' Get Hooked!**

These reports were taken by the Oakdale Police Department this year and represents a small fraction of the scam reports received this year:

"Ryan" received a call from a male claiming to be a Ramsey County Sergeant. Ryan was told he missed jury duty and needed to go to CVS pharmacy and purchase a green dot card to pay for the outstanding warrant for his arrest. Ryan contacted the police and determined it was a scam.

"John" was contacted by a female who said she was from tech support for Microsoft and there was a virus on his computer. John was told to purchase two money-grams in the amount of \$330.00. John sent the money-grams before realizing it was a scam.

"Karen" was contact by a male who said he was with the IRS and she owned back taxes. Karen knew it was a scam and hung up the phone.

"Michelle" received a call from a male who said he was a Federal Bank employee and that he had been awarded a \$10,000 Federal grant. The male requested Michelle to purchase \$600.00 in I-Tune gift cards and provide the security codes for the cards. Michelle lost \$600.00 from the scam.

"Scott" reported receiving a phone call from a male claiming to be his grandson who was in trouble and in jail in California. Scott sent four (4) \$1000.00 Walmart Gift card numbers to the male. Scott's bank canceled the checks written for the gift cards.

"Bill" was contacted by phone by a male claiming to be with "Publishers Clearing House". The male told Bill he won a large sum of money and he would be contacted by an attorney from the IRS to pay the taxes. Bill mailed \$40,000.00 to the address of the unknown male and lost his money.

"Abby" received a phone call from a female who said she won 1 Million dollars and a car. The female requested a credit card number to pay for fees. Abby recognized the call as a scam and did not provide any personal or financial information.



A concerned family member reported confidentially that her relative has been sending money to multiple people for various scams for the past year. The reported value of loss is \$200,000.00

"Becky" received a call from a male identifying himself as an Xcel Energy employee and told Becky she needed to pay \$1300.00 electronically or have the power disconnected. Becky contacted Xcel Energy and discovered it was a scam.

"Justin" said he recently listed a refrigerator for sale on Craigslist for \$250.00. A male buyer sent him a cashiers check to purchase the refrigerator and pay for carrier costs totaling \$2,260.00. The buyer asked Justin to deposit the check and get money orders to send back to the buyer. Justin believed this was suspicious, contacted the police and did not suffer a financial loss.

### Keep calm and ...

When in doubt contact the **Oakdale Police Department** by dialing **911** for police service.

You may also contact the Washington County Sheriff's Department at 651-439-9381, 7 days a week/24 hours a day.



## Section 3: Resources

*Don't be afraid to talk about it and take action*



**KEEP CALM**  
*& Hang Up*



**KEEP CALM**  
*& Shred It*



**KEEP CALM**  
*& Delete It*



**KEEP CALM**  
*& Plan Ahead*



**KEEP CALM**  
*& Seek Advice*

*waiting could only make it worse*

### Financial Fraud

Follow these steps if you think you've been a victim of any fraud that might put your finances at risk. This can include fraud related to health care/Medicare, health insurance, counterfeit prescription drugs, funeral and cemetery scams, fraudulent anti-aging products, telemarketers, Internet fraud, investment schemes, homeowner and reverse mortgage scams, sweepstakes and lottery scams, the Grandparent Scam, identity theft and legal documents.

### Keep calm and...

- Call your bank and/or credit card company.
- Cancel any debit or credit cards linked to the stolen account.
- Reset your personal identification number(s).
- File a report with the police.
- Contact Minnesota Department of Human Services: 1-800-627-9977; <https://mn.gov/dhs>

### Medicare Scams

- Report suspicious activities to 1-800-MEDICARE

For more information about Medicare scams, visit Minnesota Department of Human Services 1-800-627-9977 or <https://mn.gov/dhs>

### Identity Theft

- Contact your bank(s) and credit card companies immediately.
- Contact the Identity Theft Resource Center: 858-693-7935 and [www.idtheftcenter.org](http://www.idtheftcenter.org)
- File a report with the police. Companies you work with to clear up identity theft issues may want to see a copy of this report.
- File with the Federal Trade Commission by using its online complaint form at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov), or call the theft hotline at 1-877-ID-THEFT
- Contact the Social Security Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271



## Section 3: Resources

- Put out a fraud alert to the credit-reporting agencies:
  - \* Experian: 1-888-397-3742  
(TDD 1-800-972-0322)  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
  - \* Equifax: 1-888-766-0008  
(TDD 1-800-255-0056 and request connection to Auto Disclosure Line at 1-800-685-1111)  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)
  - \* Transunion: 1-800-680-7289  
(TDD 1-877-553-7803)  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
- Free Credit Report (all bureaus):  
1-800-322-8228 [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

### Internet Crime

- FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center:  
[www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)
- Protect yourself before becoming a victim:
  - \* Sign up for the "Do Not Call" list at 1-888-382-1222 or [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)
  - \* Sign up for the "Opt Out Mailing" list at 1-888-567-8688 or visit [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com)
  - \* Visit [www.onguardonline.gov](http://www.onguardonline.gov)

### Organizations with Resources on Scams, Fraud & Protection

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:

[www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov)

Consumer Federation of America:

[www.consumerfed.org](http://www.consumerfed.org)

Elder Financial Protection Network:

[www.bewiseonline.org](http://www.bewiseonline.org)

FINRA Investor Education Foundation:

[www.saveandinvest.org](http://www.saveandinvest.org)

National Consumer League's Fraud Center:

[www.fraud.org](http://www.fraud.org)

National Senior Citizen's Law Center:

[www.nsclc.org](http://www.nsclc.org)

Senior Linkage Line: 1-800-333-2433  
[www.seniorlinkageline.com](http://www.seniorlinkageline.com)

Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center:  
1-844-880-1574  
TDD/TTY: 1-888-206-6513  
Video Phone: 651-964-1514; [www.mn.gov/dhs](http://www.mn.gov/dhs)

Washington County Adult Protective Services:  
Adult Intake Line: 651-291-6795  
After 4:30 Friday or on Weekends 651-291-6795

Minnesota Department of Health:  
1-800-369-7994; [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

Long Term Care Ombudsman: 1-800-657-3591  
(TDD/TTY, call 711); [www.mnaging.net](http://www.mnaging.net)

Elder Law & Advocacy Referrals: 1-800-657-3591  
Senior Linkage Line  
1-800-333-2433 or [seniorlinkageline.com](http://www.seniorlinkageline.com)

Attorney General Minnesota: 1-800-657-3787  
(TDD/TTY 651-297-7206)  
[www.ag.state.mn.us](http://www.ag.state.mn.us)

Bar Association Minnesota: 1-800-882-6725  
[www.mnbar.org](http://www.mnbar.org)

County Attorney Washington County:  
651-430-6115;  
[www.co.washington.mn.us/411/county-attorney](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/411/county-attorney)

Consumer Products Safety Commission:  
1-800-638-2772; [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)





## Section 3: Resources

### Other Resources

Contractors License Board Minnesota:  
1-800-342-5354; [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov)

Commerce Department Minnesota:  
1-800-657-3602; [www.mn.gov/commerce](http://www.mn.gov/commerce)

Direct Marketing Association: 1-212-768-7277  
[www.dmaconsumers.org](http://www.dmaconsumers.org)

Direct Selling Association: 1-202-452-8866  
[www.dsa.org](http://www.dsa.org)

Do Not Call Registry: [1-888-382-1222](http://1-888-382-1222)

Driver Vehicle Services Minnesota  
Driver's License: 651-297-3298  
Motor Vehicles: 651-297-2126  
[www.dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/contact](http://www.dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/contact)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC);  
1-888-225-5322; [www.fcc.gov/complaints](http://www.fcc.gov/complaints)

Federal Trade Commission (FTC):  
1-877-382-4357; [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC):  
1-877-275-3342; [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov)

Identity Theft Resource Center:  
1-858-693-7935; [www.idtheftcenter.org](http://www.idtheftcenter.org)

Opt Out (of credit card offers):  
1-888-567-8688; [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com)

Phonebusters (report Canadian lotto scams):  
1-888-495-8501; [www.phonebusters.com](http://www.phonebusters.com)

Privacy Rights Clearing House:  
1-619-298-3396; [www.privacyrights.org](http://www.privacyrights.org)

United States Postal Inspectors: 1-877-876-2455  
<https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>

Veterans Affairs Minnesota  
1-888-546-5838; [www.mn.gov/mdva](http://www.mn.gov/mdva)

**Oakdale Police Department  
is here to help, dial **911** for any  
suspicious activity.**



**Oakdale Police Department  
encourages you to reach out to  
your neighbor, watch out for  
each other, and form a  
Neighborhood Watch Group,**

**Call 651-738-1025**

Oakdale Police Department would like to thank San Diego County, California for sharing significant portions of their content and artwork from their toolkit "Don't Get Hooked", shared in an effort for greater outreach.

**City of Oakdale  
1584 Hadley Avenue North  
Oakdale, Minnesota 55128**

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PERMIT NO. 4077

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**POSTAL PATRON**

**Don't Get Hooked!**

**Dial 911**

