



Elder Fraud

Protect Yourself, Family, Friends, and Neighbors



SAN DIEGO

SDElderFraud.com

Background

The Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act was signed into law in October 2017 to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases. As a response to the increasing prevalence of crimes against the elderly, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), along with other federal, state, local, and tribal partners, created the Elder Justice Initiative. In San Diego County, the FBI and District Attorney partnered with other local law enforcement agencies to establish the Elder Justice Task Force.

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3.gov) is responsible for receiving Elder Fraud complaints. In 2022, the IC3 received reported fraud losses of \$3.1 billion from people 60 and older, an 84% increase over 2021. The average loss per victim was \$35,101, with 5,456 victims losing more than \$100,000.



What is Elder Fraud?

Seniors are increasingly being targeted by scammers looking for financial gain. Perpetrators attempt to gain access to funds or property through a variety of methods:



Grandparent scam

Criminals pose as a relative – usually a child or grandchild – claiming to be in immediate financial need



Romance scam

Criminals pose as interested romantic partners on social media or dating websites



Tech support scam

Criminals pose as technology support representatives and offer to fix non-existent computer issues



Government impersonation scam

Criminals pose as government employees and threaten to arrest or prosecute victims unless they agree to pay



Utility or gift card scam

Criminals pose as utility company representatives and require the victim to stay on the phone with them while they purchase gift cards and provide redemption numbers over the phone

Learn more about common scams targeting seniors and access resources to help protect yourself at [SDElderFraud.com](https://www.SDElderFraud.com)



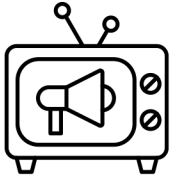
Sweepstakes/charity/lottery scam

Criminals claim to work for a non-profit to gain victims' trust, or claim the victim has won a foreign lottery or sweepstake, which they can collect for a "fee"



Home repair scam

Criminals appear in person and charge homeowners in advance for home improvement services they never provide



TV/radio scam

Criminals target potential victims using advertisements about services, such as reverse mortgages or credit repair



Family/caregiver scam

Perpetrators are relatives or acquaintances of the elderly victims and take advantage of them or otherwise get their money



Investment scam

Criminals offer unsuitable investments, fraudulent offerings, and unrecognized products which can result in the theft or misappropriation of funds



Prevent Elder Fraud

Protect yourself and loved ones by staying aware and alert:

- **Recognize scam attempts** and end all communication with the perpetrator.
- **Search online** for the contact information and proposed offer. Other people have likely posted information online about individuals and businesses trying to run scams.
- **Resist the pressure** to act quickly. Scammers create a sense of urgency to produce fear and lure victims into immediate action. Call 911 if you're threatened.
- **Be cautious** of unsolicited phone calls, mailings, and door-to-door service offers.
- **Never provide** any personally identifiable information or wire money to unknown or unverified persons or businesses.
- **Update** all computer anti-virus and security software on a regular basis.
- **Immediately disconnect** from the internet and turn off the device if you receive a suspicious pop-up or locked screen.
- **Do not open** any emails or click on attachments you do not recognize.
- **Protect your identity.** If you're scammed, contact your financial institutions to place protections on your accounts, and monitor your accounts for suspicious activity.

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Report fraud on IC3.gov

Report Elder Fraud

According to the FBI, less than 5% of elder fraud incidents are reported. When more scams are reported, law enforcement will have access to new tips and trends, and prosecutors can pursue stronger punishments against convicted criminals.

When reporting a scam, be as descriptive as possible (who, what, when, where, how). If available, be ready to provide the FBI with financial transaction details and any other information used by the criminals such as bank accounts, addresses, emails, websites, and phone numbers. After a scam, be sure to contact your financial institutions to safeguard accounts, and credit bureaus to monitor your identity for suspicious activity.

- File a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov
- Contact your local law enforcement agency (police or sheriff)

Outreach Partners



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The FBI San Diego Citizens Academy Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization separate and apart from the FBI. Our work is in alignment with the FBI San Diego Division's priorities, capabilities, needs, and objectives.