

Senior Citizen Scams

Article From McAfee

There are a number of online scams that specifically target the elderly.

Tech support scam

Criminals pose as technology support representatives and offer to fix non-existent computer issues. This may include posing as a cybersecurity company they're familiar with. The scammers gain remote access to victims' devices and sensitive information or bill them for services never needed or rendered.

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 to capitalize on their elderly victims' desire to find companions.

Government impersonation scam

Criminals pose as government employees and threaten to arrest or prosecute victims unless they agree to provide funds or other payments.

What to do if you or a loved one encounters a scam

- Learn to recognize scam attempts.
- End all communication with the perpetrator.
- Resist the pressure to act quickly. Scammers create a sense of urgency to produce fear and lure victims into immediate action.
- Be cautious. Watch out for unsolicited phone calls, mailings, and door-to-door services offers.
- Never give or send any personally identifiable information.
- Don't send money, jewelry, gift cards, checks, or wire information to unverified people or businesses. This puts you in danger.
- Use reputable anti-virus software
- Be careful what you download. Never open an email attachment from someone you don't know, and be wary of email attachments forwarded to you.
- File a complaint