

# **STOP THE SCAMS!**

### **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

is an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older people.

One of the most common types of abuse against older adults is financial fraud.

Millions of seniors annually fall victim to some type of fraud. Criminals gain their targets' trust and communicate with them via computer, phone, or mail.

Once successful, scammers are likely to keep a scheme going because of the prospect of significant financial gain.

# U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE TOP SENIOR SCAMS

#### **Social Security Administration**

Imposters call victims & say their Social Security number has been suspended due to suspicious activity. They ask to confirm the victim's Social Security number or ask to withdraw money from the victim's bank. Victims may be told their accounts will be seized if they do not act quickly.

#### **IRS Impostor Scam**

IRS Imposters call & tell victims they owe money and it must be paid promptly through wire transfers or other payments such as gift cards. Those who refuse to cooperate are threatened with arrest, deportation, or suspension of a business or driver's license.

#### **Lottery Scam**

Fraudsters call seniors & tell them they've won a sweepstakes or foreign lottery. They identify themselves as lawyers, customs, or lottery representatives. They tell people they won vacations, cars or millions of dollars. "Winners" need only pay fees for shipping, insurance, customs duties, or taxes before they claim their prizes. Victims pay hundreds or thousands of dollars and receive nothing in return.

#### OTHER COMMON SCAMS

#### Romance Scam

Scammers use dating & social networking sites to meet victims. They create fake profiles to build online relationships & eventually convince people to send money in the name of love.

#### **Tech Support Scam**

Fraudsters call & claim to be computer technicians to warn about fake computer problems. They claim they have detected viruses, malware, or hacking attempts on the victim's computer. They ask victims to give them remote computer access. They diagnose a fake problem & pressure victims to pay large sums of money for unnecessary or even harmful services.

# **Grandparent Scam**

Fraudsters call & claim to be a grandchild on vacation in a foreign country. They claim to be in legal trouble and ask for money to be immediately wired so they can get out of jail.





# IMPORTANT TIPS TO REMEMBER

- Con artists force you to make decisions fast and may threaten you.
- Con artists disguise their real numbers & use fake numbers that look local.
- Con artists can pretend to be the government or legitimate companies.
- Con artists try to get you to provide personal information like your Social Security number or account numbers.
- Before giving out your credit card number or money, please talk to a trusted friend or family member about it.

From the Federal Communications

Call Stanislaus County Adult
Protective Services to speak to
a social worker about elder abuse
or fraud and neglect at
1-800-334-4316

Stanislaus County Community Services Agency Adult Protective Services 3500 Coffee Road, Ste. 19 Modesto, CA 95355

**Phone: 1-800-334-4316** Fax: 209-558-2681

Sponsored by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

District 1 Buck Condit

District 2 Vito Chiesa

District 3 Terry Withrow

District 4 Mani Grewal

District 5 Channce Condit





# World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15th



Stanislaus County
Adult Protective
Services
1-800-334-4316