

Avoiding Scams

Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic



Get help!

Scammers will try to make you feel isolated.

Don't feel pressured to decide anything in the moment.

Find a friend or family member.



Don't cave in!

Don't send money or info immediately.

If it is truly important, they will be able to send you a letter instead.



Never send gift cards!

No government agency will ask for payment by gift card.

Go to your bank and ask them about the payment method.

Resources

Identity theft:

Eldercare Locator: **1-800-677-1116**

National Elder Fraud Hotline: **833-372-8311**

Legal Assistance:

Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic: **850-644-9928**

Legal Services of North Florida: **850-385-9007**

Local law enforcement:

Leon County Sheriff's Department: **850-606-3300**

Tallahassee Police Department: **850-891-4200**

Common Scams

What is it?

- Someone pretends to be your grandchild in trouble, asks for money to help them out of a “fix.”

What do we do?

- Never say the name of a relative over the phone.
- Ask the caller to say the full name of the family member, so that you can verify.
- Before sending money, call that relative, or someone close to them, and ask them what’s going on.

Fake Family Scams

What is it?

- Someone offers you money or some award but asks that you give them money first.
- They may say that your “tax return” has come in, or you “won the lottery.”

What do we do?

- Never send money for a promise of money.
- Never pay with gift cards or through an app.

Fake Award Scams

What is it?

- The “IRS” calls telling you that you need to immediately pay or face legal action.

What do we do?

- The IRS will always communicate through mail first.
- The IRS accepts payment in a variety of ways, so never send money if the caller says they’ll only accept only one form of payment.
- Hang up if you receive a call like this.

IRS Scams

