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

**Fake Family 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 Award 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.

**IRS 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.