

FINANCIAL SCAMS

In 2012, the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (iC3) received 289,874 complaints at a monetary loss of over \$525,000,000. In addition to the financial strain, victims deal with the stress and worry of further victimization.

Scammers utilize a number of internet and telephone scams to fraudulently obtain your financial and personal information. In this brochure we will detail some of the most common scams currently used by suspects.

We hope by educating our citizens and providing them with the tools to identify scammers we can reduce the number of victims impacted by these crimes.



Stafford Police Department
2702 South Main St.
Stafford, Texas 77477

Phone: 281-261-3950
Fax: 281-499-9744
E-mail: spd@staffordtx.gov

Created by D. Hardin
Stafford Police Department

Stafford Police
Department

Financial Scams



*Tips to Avoid Becoming a
Victim of Scams*

Tel: 281-261-3950

Common Scams

Phishing Scam

Scammers pose as employees of the victim's financial institution, a government organization, or other legitimate business.

These contacts can be through phone, email, or fraudulent websites. The "employee" will request personal and account information to verify the information on file. If the victim refuses they are often threatened with an account suspension, deportation, or fines.

Internet Auctions

Victims are contacted through their online advertisement (E-Bay, Craigslist, etc.) for the sale of a vehicle or other property. The "buyer" will send the victim a **fraudulent check or money order** for an amount over the purchase price. The victim will be asked to deposit the check and wire the excess funds to the "buyer".

Nigerian Letter Scam



The victim receives a letter from an "official" with a foreign country pleading for help in moving money to an American bank. The victim is promised a large cut of this money for assisting. To release the funds the victim is asked to provide banking information, a check or money order. If banking information is provided the suspects will begin making **unauthorized withdrawals** from the account.

Foreign Lottery Scam

The victim, often the elderly, receives a telephone call or email that they have won a foreign lottery or contest. To collect the prize victims must pay administrative fees; taxes, insurance, processing, etc. Victims are asked to provide their banking or credit card information, a check or money order, or complete a wire transfer. If banking information is provided, the suspects will begin making **unauthorized withdrawals** from the account.



Quick Tips to Avoid Scams

Financial and government organizations

will not ask to confirm information through a website or unsolicited phone call.

Do not rely on caller ID to identify your caller. "**Spoofing**" is the practice of accessing the network to falsify caller ID and email information.

Be cautious of "**get rich quick**" schemes, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Do not be intimidated by threats.

Report any suspicious activity to your banking institution or government organization.



Stafford Police Department
2702 South Main St.
Stafford, Texas 77477

Phone: 281-261-3950
Fax: 281-499-9744
E-mail: spd@staffordtx.gov

Stafford Police Department