

Educate Yourself on Scams

Roughly 7.3 million senior citizens (20% of Americans 65 and over) have been taken advantage of financially through an inappropriate investment, unreasonably high fees, or outright fraud.



Protect Yourself

- Do not open your door to strangers.
- Never reveal your financial info to anyone who calls you on the phone. Hang up!
- Delete emails from those you don't know.
- Never sign contracts that have blank lines on them.
- Do not enter sweepstakes or contests.
- Shred all sensitive paperwork.
- When you need a contractor for a home improvement job, get at least 3 estimates from reputable local contractors.

Here are some of the more common scams:

Lottery Scam: phony “lottery representatives” telling you that you’ve won a lottery but need to pay taxes up front before collecting your winnings.

Health Care Scam: people posing as “health care officials” trying to get personal information from you.

Investment and Work-At-Home Scam: schemes promising big returns for very little work.

Deceptive Contractors: overcharging seniors or demanding payment up-front before doing work.

Phishing: bogus e-mails that appear to be from banks, businesses, or government agencies requesting your personal or account information.

ID Theft: be on the lookout for false credit card purchases or cash advances. Thieves may have obtained your personal information.

**When in doubt,
let us
check it out!**

If you think you might be the target of a scam artist, let us check it out!



You might help to prevent crimes against other senior citizens. Here is what to do:

- **In person:** if someone knocks on your door and makes you uncomfortable, promptly shut and lock the door and call 9-1-1.
- **By phone:** tell the caller that you make it a practice to never give out personal information over the phone, hang up and call us.
- **E-mail:** do not reply, open attachments or click on links from unfamiliar senders. Forward to us.
- **By U.S. mail:** save the mail and call or e-mail us. If the mail includes a return envelope, detach the form on the reverse side of this brochure and send it to the suspicious mailer. (Do not put your return address on the envelope.)

Call us: **1-866-498-8503**

E-mail us:
SeniorScams@MacombCountyMi.gov

SENIORS

When in doubt,
let us
check it out!

**Your mail
created some
doubt,
so we're
checking
you out!**



MACOMB COUNTY Executive

Mark A. Hackel

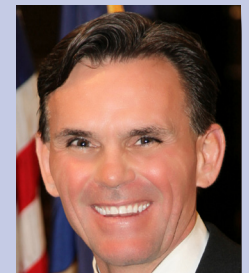
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Macomb County
Executive



Anthony M. Wickersham
Macomb County Sheriff

To Whom It May Concern,

Macomb County has initiated a new program to protect our seniors from scams.

Your mailing has raised a concern.

The legitimacy of your mail will be verified through the Sheriff's Office and the Prosecuting Attorneys Office.

Someone from our offices may be contacting you soon.

Thanks for your cooperation,

Mark A. Hackel
Macomb County Executive
1 S. Main St., 9th Floor
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Send this section back to a suspicious mailer in the return envelope they have provided

www.macombcountymi.gov/executive

