

# **LATEST SCAMS**

**Fraud Alert: Anthem Insurance Data Breach, What To Do.**

**State Officials Warn Consumers: Beware, IRS Phone Scams Still Active**

## **Tips to Protect Yourself Against Frauds and Scams, Identity Theft and Reduce Spam Email**

- Don't use or carry a checkbook.
- Sign up on the **Do Not Call List**.
- Sign up to **block credit card offers**.
- Don't carry your Social Security card with you.
- Don't give out any financial information to a stranger.
- Don't put outgoing mail in or on your mailbox.
- If regular bills fail to reach you, call the company to find out why.
- Don't respond to unsolicited e-mail (Spam).
- Don't click on contacts, pictures or files in an unsolicited e-mail.
- Don't respond to e-mail claims that you have won a prize, when you did not enter a contest.
- Use good anti-virus and anti-adware software.
- If it seems too good to be true ... IT IS!

For detailed information about Frauds and Scams go to **Consumer Fraud Reporting**.

To obtain information on charitable contribution schemes and other types of online schemes visit **Looks Too Good To Be True**.

## Previously Reported Scams

[Social Security scams](#), what you should know and what should you do.

[Buying Prescription Drugs Online scam](#), protect yourself against extortion by fake DEA agents.

[Medicare Phone scams](#), trick seniors into divulging personal info.

State Officials Warn Consumers: Beware, [IRS Phone Scams](#) Still Active

[Grandparent scams](#), in which the “grandchild” calls asking for money because of an “emergency”.

[Reverse mortgages](#), are reverse mortgages helpful or hazardous.

[Pet scams](#), where swindlers target would-be pet owners out of money targeted for adoption of animals from foreign countries.

[Rent-to-own contracts](#), stating that one missed payment requires your loved ones to forfeit all their previous payments and to surrender all the rented goods.

[“Free lunch” scams](#), which offer people free lunches to listen to bogus investment pitches dished out by a high-pressure salesperson.

These are all in addition to the unsavory litany of familiar scams, such as predatory lending, phishing, “credit repair” services, numerous fundraising letters from Africa, and [home-repair fraud](#).

## Additional Information

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program provides education and outreach to Medicare beneficiaries to help them become informed consumers of their health care. [See the SMP page on our website.](#)

Free legal Help for Seniors with Consumer Problems contact [Consumer Law Project for Elders.](#)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration reports on Common types of [Health Fraud](#) and how not to become a victim.

For more advise on avoiding Identity theft and Fraud visit [Better Business Bureau.](#)

For more advise on Health Care Scams visit the [Coalition Against Insurance Fraud.](#)

If you are a victim of an online scheme, please notify IC3 by filing a complaint at [Internet Crime Complaint Center.](#)

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