

Identity Protection Tips

- ◆ **Protect you Social Security Number.** Don't carry your Social Security card or other cards that show your SSN .
- ◆ **Use caution when giving out your personal information.** Scam artists “phish” for victims by pretending to be banks, stores or government agencies. They do this over the phone, in e-mails, and in postal mail.
- ◆ **Treat your trash carefully.** Shred paper containing your personal information including credit card offers and “convenience checks” you don't use.
- ◆ **Protect your postal mail.** Retrieve mail promptly. Discontinue delivery while out of town.
- ◆ **Stop pre-approved credit offers.** Pre-approved credit card offers are a target for identity thieves who steal your mail. Have your name removed from credit bureau marketing lists. Call toll-free 888-5OPTOUT (888-567-8688).
- ◆ **Protect your computer.** Protect personal information on your computer by following good security practices. Use strong, non-easily guessed passwords, use firewall, anti-virus, and anti-spyware software that you update regularly. Don't click on links in pop-up windows or in spam e-mails.

If you are the victim of a monetary scam or identity theft contact your local law enforcement agency and involved financial institution.

- ◆ **Lyon County Sheriff's Office**
507-537-7666
- ◆ **Tracy Police Department**
507-629-5534
- ◆ **Marshall Police Department**
507-537-7000
- ◆ **Minneota Police Department**
507-872-6185

CODE RED
Community Notification Enrollment

Sign up for e-mail, text, and phone alerts from the Lyon County Sheriff's Office.
Go to:
<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFF01248867D>
or call 507-929-6615 to sign up/

Identity Theft
and Fraud



Lyon County Sheriff's Office



Tel: 507-537-7666
www.lyonco.org

Common Scams

International Scam

- ◆ You will receive a message by postal mail or e-mail allegedly from a country with government turmoil.
- ◆ The sender will claim that they need a place to protect their money until the country's issues are resolved.
- ◆ If you provide your bank account info they will put the money in your account and you will be allowed to keep a percentage.
- ◆ If you provide your info the scam artist will then withdraw money from your account.

Donating for a noble cause

- ◆ You will be contacted by someone claiming to be a representative from a charitable organization asking for money.
- ◆ While there are many legitimate organizations, there are also fictitious ones only after your bank information.
- ◆ Don't provide any information unless you are sure it is legitimate..

Hint: Legitimate organization will not threaten you, they will not swear or be rude to you, and there should be no need for them to have your social security number.

You Win a Prize

- ◆ You are contacted and told you have won a monetary prize;
- ◆ To claim your prize you must send money to cover taxes or other miscellaneous fees;
- ◆ The scam artist keeps your money and sends you nothing.

Hint: There should be no reason for you to have to pay to receive something you supposedly won. Taxes or other fees can be subtracted from your winnings and the remainder sent to you.

Do not provide your bank information for automatic deposit.

Selling Items

- ◆ You are contacted in reference to an item you are selling on classified or auction websites;
- ◆ They will ask questions about your item to show their interest and gain your trust;
- ◆ The scam artist will then agree to buy the item;
- ◆ You will receive a **FAKE** cashier's check or money order in the mail for an amount much higher than the agreed selling price;
- ◆ The scammer will instruct you to keep what is owed to you and immediately forward the rest to another third party for a variety of reasons;

Hint: If you do as instructed you will learn that the check is fake. By the time this is realized the money you sent will be gone and you may be responsible to cover the fake check.

Relative is in Jail

- ◆ You will receive a call from a person claiming to be a grandchild, niece or nephew;
- ◆ They will tell you that they have been arrested for a variety of reasons and they need you to send them money so they can be released from jail;
- ◆ They will claim that they cannot contact their parents and that the need for the money is immediate in nature.

Hint: Do your homework! Before sending any money ask questions only your loved one would know. Obtain a call back number, hang-up and attempt to contact your relative with their regular number. Chances are that they are fine.

Lyon County Sheriff's Office



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