



Who to Contact If You've Been Scammed

If you've lost money or shared sensitive information online, it's important to act quickly. Follow these steps to protect yourself and help others.

Immediate Actions

1. **Call your bank or credit card company** if someone scammed money from you.
2. **Change your password** if you shared it.
3. **Call someone you trust**, such as a family member or a friend.

Report the Scam

Even if you didn't lose money, reporting the scam helps others avoid the same trap. Here's where you can report:

- **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**
Tracks fraud and shares info with law enforcement.
Website: reportfraud.ftc.gov
Phone: 1-877-382-4357 (Mon–Fri, 9am–8pm ET)
- **FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)**
Handles online scams, phishing, and internet fraud.
Website: ic3.gov
- **USA.gov Scam Assistance**
Central source for scams, fraud, and recovery resources.
Website: usa.gov/stop-scams-frauds
Phone: 1-844-USA-GOV1 (1-844-872-4681)
- **U.S. Department of Justice – Elder Justice Initiative**
Supports victims of elder scams and abuse.
Website: justice.gov/elderjustice
Phone: Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311)

- **Area Agency on Aging**

Local help and counseling for seniors.

Website: eldercare.acl.gov

Phone: 1-800-677-1116

Helpful Tip

If you're feeling overwhelmed, ask a trusted family member or friend to help you make these calls or fill out the online forms.

What Happens Next?

- You may receive an email confirmation from the agency you reported to.
- They may not respond individually, but your report helps track scam patterns.
- Keep copies of everything you submit (screenshots or printouts).

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Don't pay anyone promising to "recover" your lost funds.
- Don't click on suspicious links sent after the incident.
- Don't delay. Quick action is key to limiting damage.

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