



# 5 COMMON SCAMS

## Grandparent Scams

Fraudsters claim your grandchild is in trouble and needs money to help with an emergency such as getting out of jail, paying a bill or leaving a foreign country. They prey on your emotions and trick you into wiring money.

## Imposter Scams

Con artists pose as government agencies (IRS, Medicare and Social Security) and get personal information from you, such as Social Security Numbers, credit card info, etc.

## Sweepstakes/Lottery Scams

Scammers tell you to wire money (to pay for taxes or fees) for a prize you won. You never have to pay fees to collect a prize from a legitimate sweepstakes. Foreign lotteries are illegal.

## Robo Calls/Unwanted Phone Calls

Computers can make thousands of calls per minute. If you answer the phone, it confirms that it's a working number, and they sell your number.

## ID Theft/Medicare Fraud

Fraudsters try to get Medicare and Social Security numbers. Don't give out personal information to unsolicited callers. Information is the commodity of the 21st Century.

## TO REPORT CONSUMER FRAUD

Contact the **Indiana Attorney General's Office**, **800-382-5516** or **317-232-6330** or the **Federal Trade Commission**, **877-FTC-HELP**.

To Report Medicare Fraud: Contact the **Indiana Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)**, **800-986-3505** or **317-205-9201**.

# PREVENTION TIPS & RED FLAGS

**Don't answer the phone if you don't recognize the number.** If it's legitimate, they'll leave a message.

**Screen your calls or let them go to voice mail if you don't recognize the number.** Incoming phone numbers can be spoofed (falsified). Use call screening and blocking services on landlines and apps for smart phones.

**Don't give info over the phone.** Most government agencies will provide information in written form—they don't call you. Don't answer questions or say "yes" to unsolicited callers.

**Don't wire/send money** unless you are certain that your friend or family is actually abroad and needs it.

**Don't make decisions under pressure.** Check with trusted persons or agencies before making decisions that affect your finances or well-being.

**Check your bank, Medicare, and credit card** statements for unauthorized charges.

**Don't Keep Secrets.** Fraudsters don't want you to tell your family or friends. Before making a decision, check with trusted advisors, or call SMP.

**Treat your Medicare card like a credit card.** Your Medicare number has value to a fraudster.

Contact Indiana Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)  
if you suspect Medicare fraud.

**800.986.3505**

or 317.205.9201



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