

# 7 Types of Common Scams



## Impersonation Scams

Scammers may pretend to be a grandchild in an emergency, a computer technician who has detected problems with your computer or web browser, or even government officials asking for payment of fines or fees. In most cases, the scammer will tell you to wire money immediately and claim it is for a good reason – but in fact – they are planning to take your cash and leave you with nothing!



## Romance Scams

All too often, people fall into financial traps when they start a relationship with someone who appears to be their perfect match. Scammers pretend to fall in love online before convincing you to send money for plane tickets, visa costs, or emergencies. They may even claim to work for the U.S. government and are trying to help move your newfound love abroad.



## Product or Services Scams

Scammers advertise products or services at a great price, but when you provide your financial details – they steal your identity and financial information. They may even go so far as trying to use your financial information to purchase items on websites like eBay & Craigslist! Remember that scammers can appear trustworthy by using professional-looking emails or websites.



## Investment Scams

In investment scams, scammers promise high rates of return on investments that don't exist or other financial benefits without asking you for any money first – then they disappear with your cash! Be wary if you are asked to keep your investment plans secret because others will try to steal the deal from you.



## Lottery/Sweepstakes Scams

Scammers love to play on your dreams of what you could win – if only you send money for taxes, customs fees, or other financial up-front costs required before receiving your financial reward or prize. But in fact, there is no financial reward, and you have been tricked into sending cash to a scammer!



## Phishing Scams

In phishing scams, scammers posing as a legitimate organization or a trusted source will contact you through email or text messages asking you to verify personal information such as username, password, SSN, personal information, etc. This can also include clicking on a link that takes you to a site where the scammers ask for private information.



## Elder Financial Exploitation (EFE)

EFE occurs when a person or entity intentionally takes or misuses funds, assets, or property with the intent to wrongfully use or defraud a vulnerable adult or senior for the fraudster's personal benefit. EFE is the most common form of elder abuse, and only a tiny fraction of incidents get reported resulting in an estimated 1 in 6 people over 60 experiencing some form of exploitation.

# Tips to Avoid Common Scams



Set up email and text alerts.



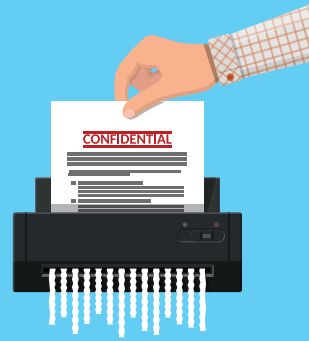
Use the Clearwater CardNav app.



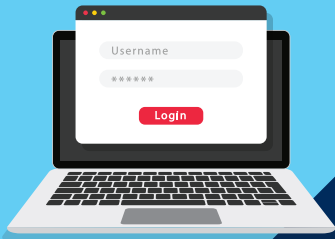
Stay opted-in to Clearwater fraud text alerts.



Review your account activity regularly.



Shred your account documents.



Make sure passwords change and are strong.



Use a secure connection when shopping online.



Confirm all communications about your finances or accounts.



Don't download files or click on links.



Beware spoofed phone numbers.



Avoid giving out info over the phone.



Don't forward money to people you don't know.



Check your credit reports.



Report scams to the Federal Trade Commission.



If it sounds too good to be true... it probably is.