

Protect Your Family From Scams

June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month



The elderly population is one of the most commonly targeted by scams. June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month and is dedicated to highlighting issues and the ways they can be prevented to offer older citizens security and dignity. Elder financial abuse happens to millions of adults every year, and new, more sophisticated scams are created by bad actors at alarming rates. Below are three warning signs that can make it easier to spot a scam.



They contact you unsolicited

If anyone, including someone you may know, reaches out to you asking for money, passwords, or personal information, it could be a scam. Even familiar email addresses and phone numbers can be compromised and used to phish for your private information.



They mention a problem or a prize

Do not trust a message pressuring you for vital information to fix an urgent problem. Likewise, be cautious of messages offering a prize, unbelievable sale, or high-return investment. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it is likely a scam.



They tell you to pay a certain way

If a person or company demands payment through gift cards, prepaid cards, a mobile payment service like Cash App or Venmo, or by mailing cash, the request could be coming from a bad actor. Also, avoid clicking links provided in emails or text messages.

If you are ever unsure, proceed with caution. Call the company asking for your information directly using a phone number from an official website or a billing statement. If you believe you or a family member have become a victim of elder fraud, call the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-833-586-0107 or visit www.ReportElderAbuseWI.org.