



FIGHT THE FRAUD INFERNO



SAFEGUARD YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

If you do not initiate contact with a legitimate business, **DO NOT** give the following information to anyone:

- Name
- Birthday
- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Address
- Bank account numbers
- Credit/debit card numbers



PROTECT YOUR MONEY & BANK ACCOUNTS

If you are using a payment transfer service such as Zelle, Venmo, or Facebook Messenger Money Transfers, **DO NOT** use them to transfer money to people who you do not know personally.

If you receive a text message that asks for your financial information, is finance related, or appears to come from a bank that you do not use, **DO NOT** respond. If you signed up for text or mobile banking with your own bank, use these services with caution.

NEVER use your bank account to process a payment for someone.

Not all websites are legitimate. Ensure that websites for financial services are secure with a website that begins with “https” and shows a lock icon, like this: 

A best practice is to secure a loan from a bank or legitimate loan service center that you can visit in-person.



BE AWARE OF COMMON SCAMS

Lottery

To win the lottery, you have to *play* the lottery. The lottery **WILL NOT** call you to tell you that you won - you must take your lottery ticket/scratch off/etc. to a business that sells lottery tickets in order to prove that you have won.

Arrest Warrant

Paying money **DOES NOT** allow you to avoid a warrant. Neither the federal government nor any law enforcement agencies will ever call you to say that they will accept a payment from you to avoid being arrested.

Social Security

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration **WILL NOT** call you and ask for your Social Security Number or payments, and will not call to threaten your benefits. They will not call you to inform you that your accounts have been compromised and do not monitor for fraud.

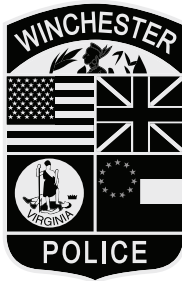
Gift Cards

Gift cards are only used to make personal purchases, and are **NEVER** a valid form of payment to a government or business entity.



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INFERNO



The Winchester Police Department cares deeply about the citizens of Winchester. Follow the tips on the back of this page to ensure that you do not become the victim of a scam. Many scams are run by people who are out of the area - oftentimes, out of the country - and we are sometimes limited in our ability to get your money back after it has been taken by a scammer.

WHERE TO REPORT FRAUD

Federal Trade Commission | 1-877-FTC-HELP • 1-877-ID-THEFT • www.ftc.gov

Federal Bureau of Investigation IC3 | www.ic3.gov

Federal Communications Commission | 1-888-225-5322

QUESTIONS?

Give us a call if you need help finding the resources that you need to report fraud. Our non-emergency number is 540-662-4131.