

Avoiding Scams



seattle.gov/crime-prevention

Avoiding Scams

Signs it's a Scam

- Pressuring you to buy something you didn't want and not taking 'no' for an answer.
- Asking for personal information like a credit card or Social Security Number.
- Putting time limits on your decision "you have to make up your mind right away".
- Saying they are an 'official' agency like the IRS or local police department, and threatening arrest unless you pay.
- Claims that a family member is in trouble (especially overseas) and needs money.

Avoid it

- Don't worry about being considered 'rude', hang up the phone if you think it's a scam.
- **If they called you**, never disclose personal details over the phone or online.
- Never send money to someone you have never met overseas.

Report It

Report to the FTC: www.ftc.gov/complaint

Report to SPD: www.seattle.gov/police/report

Report the incident to all three credit bureaus.

Even if you did not give money or information, you can still report the incident to the FTC.

Key Tip:

After a troubling phone call, tell someone else, or try saying what happened out loud to yourself. Replaying it can help you realize it was a scam.



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