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SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS &
THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

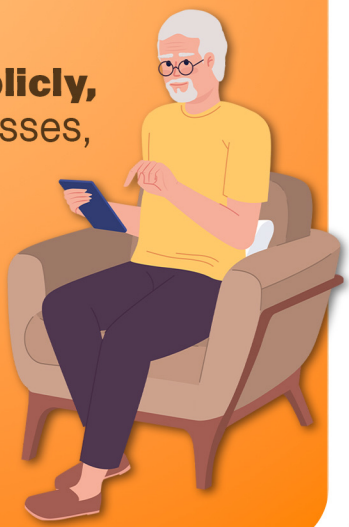
WHILE YOU'RE ONLINE, REMEMBER...

Passwords:

Use strong, unique passwords and never reuse them across multiple Accounts.

Social Media:

Limit what you share publicly, especially birthdays, addresses, ID cards, and travel plans.



Fake Websites:

Check for misspellings, strange web addresses, or pressure to act quickly.

GET HELP

MA Excecutive Office of Elder Affairs:
(617) 727-7750
MA Attorney General's Office: (617) 727-2200
Elder Abuse: 1-800-922-2275

Boston Elderly Affairs: (617) 635-4366
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Chelsea / Revere / Winthrop Elder Services:
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(617) 704-6655

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)-BASED & MODERN SCAMS:

AI is a type of technology that allows computers to learn and "think" in simple ways as people do. Scammers use this tool for unlawful purposes, making phone calls, sending emails, and text messages.

Some of the most common ways scammers use AI to target victims include the following:

AI Voice Cloning:

- Scammers can replicate the voices of your loved ones accurately through AI apps for voice cloning.
- If you receive a distress call, verify it first by calling the person directly or checking with a trusted family member or friend.

AI Videos:

Be skeptical of videos asking for money or personal information, even if they look real. DO NOT believe the news on social media before confirming it from your local news channel or newspaper.

AI Customer Support:

Scammers will try to gather your personal information by creating AI customer support agents.
Always reach out to companies using phone numbers or links from their official websites.

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BE AND FEEL SAFE AT HOME



Door-to-Door Awareness:



- NEVER open the door to unexpected visitors.
- DO NOT share personal information without confirming who they are first.

Medication Safety:



- Keep medications locked away.
- NEVER share prescriptions with anyone.

Home Maintenance:



- Always verify contractors by contacting the company directly or confirming their identity with a trusted family member or friend.
- NEVER pay in full before work is completed.

Fire Safety:



Test smoke alarms monthly and have a simple escape plan you can follow day or night.

#WEARESCSD | WWW.SCSDMA.ORG

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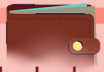
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SAFETY IN PUBLIC PLACES

Staying safe in public spaces is just as important as staying safe at home. Simple habits can make a big difference in protecting your well-being and giving you greater peace of mind.



Stay aware. Avoid distractions like using your phone while walking.



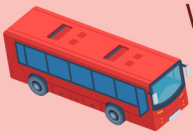
Always keep purses and wallets zipped and close to your body, especially in crowded places.

Trust your instincts and leave any area immediately if it feels unsafe.

When asking for Uber, Lyft, or Taxi services, confirm the driver's name and car details (model and plate number) **before entering** the rideshare vehicle.



In parking lots, walk confidently, keep keys ready, and look inside your car before getting in.



While in public transportation, DO NOT sit alone, instead sit near the driver or other passengers, and remember to keep personal belongings within sight.

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FINANCIAL SAFETY & FRAUD PREVENTION

Protecting your finances is an important part of staying safe and independent.



IRS SCAMS:

Scammers may pretend to be from the IRS or another government agency. They may claim you owe money or are due a refund.

Government agencies DO NOT call, text, or email asking for immediate payments or threatening legal action.

If you receive a suspicious message, do not provide your personal information.

To verify a legitimate issue, contact IRS customer support directly at 800-829-1040.

TTY/TDD assistance: 800-829-4059 for hearing-impaired callers.

To report frauds, visit: ReportFraud.ftc.gov

IRS

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FINANCIAL SAFETY & FRAUD PREVENTION

Protecting your finances is an important part of staying safe and independent.

BANKING SCAMS:

Fraudsters may impersonate bank personnel in an attempt to gain access to your financial accounts.



NEVER share your bank account information, passwords, or one-time verification codes with anyone who contacts you unexpectedly.

If someone claims to be calling from your bank, end the call and contact your bank directly using the official phone number listed on the back of your bank card or on the bank's official website.

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FINANCIAL SAFETY & FRAUD PREVENTION

LOTTERY & PRIZE SCAMS:

Scammers may claim you've won money or prizes.

If you didn't enter a contest, you didn't win.

Legitimate lotteries or contests never require you to pay fees or taxes upfront to receive a prize.

Lottery Scamers Often:

- **Pretend to be a famous brand**
- **Sent you messages with misspellings or, unusual links**



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FINANCIAL SAFETY & FRAUD PREVENTION

SHOPPING ONLINE SAFELY



Check your bank or credit card statements regularly to spot unusual charges.

Online shopping is convenient, but it's important to take a few precautions.

- Shop only on trusted, well-known websites, and make sure the website address begins with "https" before entering payment information.
- DO NOT click shopping links in unexpected emails or pop-up ads. Instead, type the store's website directly into your browser. If possible, use a credit card for protection rather than a debit card.

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FINANCIAL SAFETY & FRAUD PREVENTION

Scammers often send urgent messages claiming there is a problem with your delivery.

Be cautious of emails or texts saying your package is delayed or requires a payment.

Fraudsters may use email addresses that look similar to real delivery companies but contain small misspellings or extra characters.

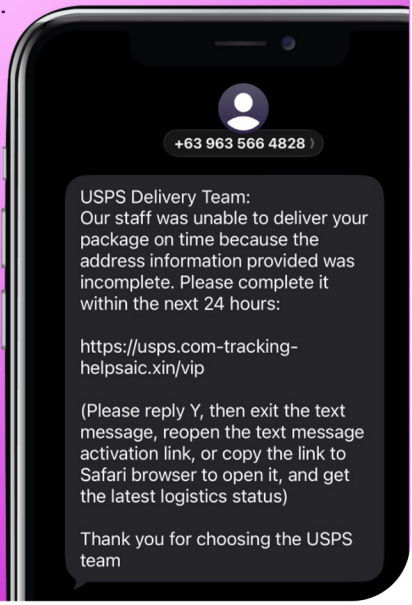
DO NOT click links or rush to pay a fee. Instead, call or email the delivery company directly through its official website to verify the message.

SCAM ADDRESSES:

fraud@amazonn.com

USPSpostalone@email.usps.gov

SHIPPING SCAMS & PHISHING TEXT MESSAGES



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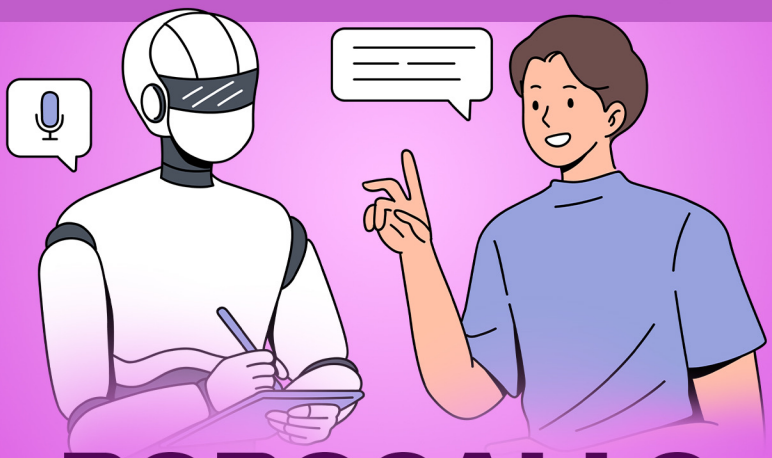
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FINANCIAL SAFETY & FRAUD PREVENTION



ROBOCALLS

Automated calls may attempt to trick you into giving away personal information.

Hang up immediately if you receive an automated call asking for personal or financial details. Then, proceed to block that number.

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WHERE TO GET HELP AND REPORT FINANCIAL FRAUD

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC):

THE FTC IS THE PRIMARY FEDERAL AGENCY THAT COLLECTS REPORTS ABOUT FRAUD AND SCAMS.

REPORTFRAUD.FTC.GOV
1-877-FTC-HELP
(1-877-382-4357)

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU (BBB)-SCAM TRACKER:

A PUBLIC REPORTING TOOL THAT HELPS WARN OTHERS ABOUT SCAMS HAPPENING IN REAL TIME.

BBB.ORG/SCAMTRACKER

FBI INTERNET CRIME COMPLAINT CENTER (IC3):

A FEDERAL SYSTEM USED TO REPORT INTERNET-RELATED FRAUD, INCLUDING LOTTERY AND SWEEPSTAKES SCAMS.

GO TO: IC3.GOV

UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE:

IF THE SCAM INVOLVED LETTERS, CHECKS, OR OTHER MAIL COMMUNICATIONS.

POSTALINSPECTORS.USPIS.GOV
PHONE: 1-877-876-2455

ADDITIONAL HELP

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