

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ONALASKA POLICE CHIEF JOHN MADDUX

Scams, primarily of a financial nature, seem to be more prevalent this time of the year and it behooves all of us to exercise caution and perform due diligence when we are requested to provide money or personal information. Contact is often initiated via phone or the internet.

Financial scams have become so prevalent that these actions are now considered "the crime of the 21st century." Over ninety percent (90%) of financial scams against senior citizens are committed by the senior's own family members.

Review the Information below, to assist in identifying possible scams.

1. You receive a phone call from the IRS or County Clerk informing you that you owe money and if you don't pay today you will be arrested and taken to jail.
2. You receive a phone call advising that a relative or friend needs money for food, rent, or medicine. You must pay today or something dreadful will happen.
3. You receive a phone call soliciting money for some charity. Before donating, investigate to make positive the charity is legitimate. Charities that use a telemarketing firm to solicit donations often receive only a fraction of the amount donated.
4. You receive a phone call advising that you are a lottery or sweepstakes winner, however before you can claim your prize, you must first send money to unlock the prize.
5. You receive a phone call or email offering to sell prescription medications at a significant discount. Often, prescription medications which are marketed in this manner are counterfeit.
6. You receive a phone call or email from what appears to be a legitimate company asking to update or to verify personal information. Before providing any information, investigate to make positive the request for information is legitimate. Most companies will not request to update or verify personal information in this manner.
7. You receive a phone call advising that a relative or friend is in jail and you need to post bail in order for the individual to be released. Before providing any funds confirm the truth of the statement.
8. If you are requested to provide the funds in the form of a prepaid card, a scam is being committed.

Keep alert to your surroundings.