



Scam Alert Information and Trends

Jordan Police Department would like to remind its citizens of reoccurring scams that are happening all over the United States and unfortunately in our very own community! What are the scams you may ask? We have a list of the most common ones below!

COVID-19 Scams: You receive an unexpected/unsolicited email or text message from your boss, pastor, professor or a leader in an organization you are involved in requesting that you purchase Gift Cards and send the cards or the claim codes to a specific person to assist in COVID-19 treatments or efforts. We suggest you immediately try to contact the person requesting the Gift Cards directly using a phone number/email that you know is theirs. Always be suspicious of anyone who contacts you and demands money quickly.

Social Security or Identity Theft Scams: You receive an unexpected phone call or unsolicited email about a “problem” with your Social Security number, account, or benefits that you need to resolve immediately, or you will face arrest or other legal action. Or, the scammer says you have to make a payment to receive assistance for an identity theft issue or in exchange for a Social Security benefit increase. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from the Social Security Administration—or any another government agency—and they want you to pay a fine or fee using gift cards, pre-paid debit cards, wire transfers, cash, or internet currency, it is a scam.

Amazon Scam: Scammers are using fake caller ID information to trick you into thinking they’re someone who can be trusted. The practice is called “caller ID spoofing,” and scammers can fake anyone’s phone number. You may receive an unsolicited call from someone stating they are a member of Amazon Customer Service. They may say your account is frozen and you need to purchase Amazon.com or other branded gift cards and provide the claim codes over the phone in order to remove the freeze on your account. Other things they might ask for are your Amazon password, full credit card ID or bank account number. Amazon will never call you to ask you to purchase gift cards to unlock your account or ask you to provide sensitive personal information like your social security number, tax ID, bank account number, credit card information, or Amazon account related information like your mother's maiden name or your password.

Family Emergency Scam: You receive an unexpected phone call or unsolicited email from an individual claiming to be a lawyer, law enforcement agent, hospital employee, or even a family member. The individuals request financial help/information to help the individual out, most of the time they request this by wire transfer or in the form of gift cards.

Craigslist or Classified Scam: You post something for sale when your contacted by an individual who wants the item shipped. They will often send you an amount of money over the asking price, this is usually sent in the form of a fake cashiers check or money order asking for you to deposit or cash it. They instruct you to ship the item and keep some extra money to cover the shipping and for your time. The item is then shipped, a few days later your contacted by your bank that the cashier’s check, or money order did not clear, you are now out the item and money.

What can you do to protect yourself? Hang up and report it to the Social Security Office of the Inspector General online at <https://oig.ssa.gov>. Do not provide any personal or financial information to unverified businesses or persons over the phone. Report any suspicious phone calls to your law enforcement agency or file a complaint with the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) by going to <https://www.ftc.gov/>. Its also a good idea to monitor your credit reports, you can go to <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/> and receive a free credit report.