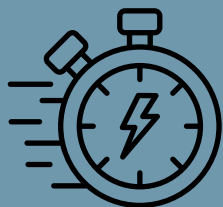


Quick Reference



WHAT TO DO

1. Hang up or ignore suspicious messages
2. Confirm independently
3. Ask for help
4. Report and block

KEEP IN MIND

- Scammers thrive on urgency
- Always dial official numbers yourself
- Scams are sophisticated; no shame in asking for help
- Fighting back starts with reporting



Contact Us

608-742-9233

adrc@columbiacountywi.gov

www.co.columbia.wi.us/columbiacounty/adrc/



Aging and Disability Resource Center
of Columbia County
P.O. Box 136
111 E Mullett St,
Portage, WI 53901



Spot the Scam!

*A Quick Guide to Spot,
Avoid, and Report Fraud*

What to Watch for

Person-in-Need/Grandparent Scams

Someone impersonates a loved one in distress and urges secrecy.

Financial Service Impersonation

Scam artists pose as banks or brokers to lure you into fake deals.

Tech Support & Computer Scams

"We fixed your computer... now pay us."
Often fake pop-ups or calls.

Government Imposter Scams

Calls from fake IRS, SSA, or Medicare agents threatening arrest or account suspension.

Investment & "Get Rich Quick" Schemes

Too good to be true promises, often wrapped in crypto.

Identity Theft

Personal info stolen for credit fraud or impersonation.

Romance Scams

Sweet talkers online who end up robbing your heart—and wallet.

Health Care & Health Insurance Scams

Bogus plans, fake clinics, or schemes exploiting Medicare.

Travel, Vacation & Timeshare Scams

"Incredible deal—just pay upfront!"

Sweepstakes & Lottery Scams

Claiming you've "won," but first pay a handling fee.

Spotting the Red Flags

If something rings a bell—especially these warning signs—hit the pause button:

🚩 **Pressure tactics**
"Act now or else!"

🚩 **Caller ID con artists**
They falsify numbers to look legit.

🚩 **Secret stories**
Scammers ask you not to tell a soul.

🚩 **Unusual payment methods**
Gift cards, prepaid debit cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency.

🚩 **Too-good-to-be-true offers**
They usually are.

What You Can Do Right Now

- **Hang up on suspicious calls or texts.**
- **Check directly**
Call bank or government agencies using numbers from official documents.
- **Talk it over**
Ask family, a trusted friend, or call the Senate Aging Committee's Fraud Hotline: 1-855-303-9470 (Mon–Fri, 9 AM–5 PM ET).
- **Report the scam to your local law enforcement or the FTC.**
- **Strengthen your Cyber Shield**
Use strong, unique passwords and enable two-factor authentication.

If You 've Been Scammed

You're not alone—and it's NOT your fault:

- **Report the fraud swiftly (bank, FTC, law enforcement).**
- **Alert your bank or credit provider**
Freeze accounts or reverse charges if possible.
- **Reach out**
Contact trusted family or community services.
- **Call the Senate Aging Committee's Fraud Hotline again**
Staff can help connect you to recovery resources.
1-855-303-9470 (Mon–Fri, 9 AM–5 PM ET)

