

# HOW SENIORS CAN AVOID SCAMS



## Information from the Department of Financial Protection & Innovation



### Never Give Personal Information

Avoid sharing your Social Security number, bank details, or other sensitive information over the phone, email, or text



### Remember Government Agencies Don't Call

Agencies like the IRS won't contact you by phone to request information or payments



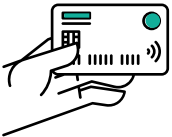
### Don't Click On Links In Texts or Emails

Ignore unexpected links sent via text or email; these are often phishing attempts



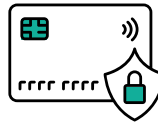
### Use An Anti-Fraud Pen For Checks

When writing checks, use a special anti-fraud pen to prevent the ink from being altered



### Bypass PIN Use On Debit Card

Choose the *credit* option at pumps or ATMs to avoid entering your PIN, protecting your information from potential card skimmers



### Monitor And Freeze Your Credit

Check your credit report regularly and consider freezing your credit to prevent unauthorized access.



### Avoid Answering Unknown Calls Or Returning Voicemails

If you're told there's a problem with your account or information, contact the source directly to confirm the claim



### Don't Send Money via Gift Card, Wire Transfer, Or Cryptocurrency

Scammers often request money through these methods as they're hard to trace



## IF YOU THINK YOU'RE A VICTIM OF A SCAM, CONTACT ANY OF THE AGENCIES FOR ASSISTANCE:

Department of Financial  
Protection & Innovation  
[www.dfpi.ca.gov](http://www.dfpi.ca.gov)  
866-275-2677

Federal Trade  
Commission  
[www.reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov)  
877-382-4357

Federal Bureau  
of Investigation  
[www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

National Elder  
Fraud Hotline  
1-833-372-8311