



The Algonquin Police Department has been receiving an increase in scam reports. Please be aware scammers tend to target the senior population using several methods.

#### Common Scams

- *Rental Scam (on-line posting)*
- *Grandson/daughter in Jail (phone call)*
- *Romance (on-line dating sites, social media sites)*
- *IRS threatening arrest (phone call)*
- *Police or Sherriff arrest (phone call)*
- *Publisher's Clearing House Win (email, phone call)*
- *Lottery winnings (email, phone call)*
- *Social Security (email)*
- *Employment (on-line posting, email)*
- *Black-mail (on-line dating sites, social media sites)*
- *Animals for sale (on-line posting)*



#### Common ways scammers make contact

- *Phone calls*
- *Social Media/dating websites/employment ads/Craigslist*
- *Email*
- *Mail*

If you have any suspicions you or a family member may be getting scammed, please contact the Algonquin Police Department for assistance. More information can be located on this back page.



## **Protect Yourself!**

- Recognize scam attempts and end all communication with the perpetrator
- Search online for the contact information (name, phone number, addresses) and the proposed offer. Other people have likely posted information online about individuals and businesses trying to run scams.
- Resist the pressure to act quickly. Scammers create a sense of urgency to produce fear and lure victims into immediate action. Call the police immediately if you feel there is a danger to yourself or a loved one.
- Be cautious of unsolicited phone calls, mailings and door-to-door services offers.
- Never give or send any personally identifiable information, money, jewelry, gift cards, checks or wire information to unverified people or businesses.
- Make sure all computer anti-virus and security software and malware protections are up to date. Use reputable anti-virus software and firewalls.
- Disconnect from the internet and shut down your device if you see a pop-up message or locked screen. Pop ups are regularly used by perpetrators to spread malicious software. Enable pop-up blockers to avoid accidentally clicking on a pop-up.
- Be careful what you download. Never open an email attachment from someone you don't know, and be wary of email attachments forwarded to you.
- Take precautions to protect your identity if a criminal gains access to your device or account. Immediately contact your financial institutions to place protections on your accounts, and monitor your accounts and personal information for suspicious activity.

## **How to Report**

- If you believe you or someone you know may have been a victim of elder fraud, contact your local FBI field office or submit a tip online. You can also file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.
- When reporting a scam-regardless of dollar amount-include as many of the following details as possible:
  - Names of the scammer/and/or company
  - Dates of contact
  - Methods of communication
  - Phone numbers, email addresses, mailing addresses, and websites used by the perpetrator.
  - Methods of payment.
  - Where you sent funds, including wire transfers and prepaid cards (provide financial institution names, account names, and account numbers)
  - Descriptions of your interactions with the scammer and the instructions you were given.

*You are also encouraged to keep original documentation, emails, faxes and logs of all communications.*