



SEASIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Honor, Pride, and Commitment

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNET SCAMS TARGETING SENIORS

Seaside, CA
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Financial crimes targeting seniors have become prevalent throughout the United States. Financial scams often go unreported or can be difficult to prosecute. However, they're devastating to many older adults and can leave them in a very vulnerable position with little time to recoup their losses.

It's not just wealthy seniors who are targeted. Low-income older adults are also at risk of financial abuse. Scam artists in the U.S. and around the world defraud millions of people each year by using the internet to trick victims into sending money or giving our personal information.

Types of Internet Fraud

Internet crime schemes target victims using various methods:

- **Internet auction fraud** - This scheme involves the misrepresentation of a product advertised for sale on an Internet auction site, or non-delivery of merchandise.
- **Credit card fraud** - Through the unauthorized use of a credit or debit card, or card number, scammers fraudulently obtain money or property.
- **Investment fraud** - This is an offer using false claims to solicit investments or loans, or providing for the purchase, use, or trade of forged or counterfeit securities.

Tips to Avoid Internet Fraud

Take these measures before entering into transactions over the Internet:

- **Know your seller** - If you don't know who you're buying from online, do some research.
- **Protect your personal information** - Don't provide it in response to an e-mail, a pop-up, or a website you've linked to from an e-mail or web page.

The mission of the Seaside Police Department is to provide quality police services, in partnership with our community, to enhance and maintain a safe environment.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has more tips to protect yourself and your family from the various types of Internet fraud.

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber>

Report Internet Fraud

If you believe you've been a victim of Internet fraud or cybercrime, report it:

- File a report with the Seaside Police Department
- File a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).

<https://www.ic3.gov/complaint/default.aspx>

Anonymous Tip-Line – (831) 899-6282
Seaside Police Department – (831) 899-6748
Non-Emergency Dispatch – (831) 394-6811



Or leave a tip at the Seaside Police Department's online tip website at:

<http://www.tipsoft.com/index.asp?P=WebTips>

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For Immediate Release
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