

Nigerian Money Offers:

- Be aware that these scams are well-known
- These promises are never true
- Once you are on the hook, they'll never let you go
- Don't believe photographs of the "treasure"
- Be wary of offers to send you an "advance" on your "commission"
- Never provide your bank account or other financial information
- Don't agree to travel anywhere to meet these people
- Remember that these are hardened criminals
- If they get your money, you'll never get it back

All About Fraud

The most common scams and how to avoid them.



Courtesy of



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Although it may seem like it, scam artists are not just pushy salespeople trying to make a living. They are criminals who are out to take their victims' life savings. Often they will use scare tactics to sell products or services, and other times they will impersonate well-known companies or charities to trick their victims.

The most common types of scams are work-at-home scams, prizes and sweepstakes scams, Medicare Rx drug coverage scams, lotteries and lottery club scams, fake check scams, and Nigerian money offers.

Central Savings Bank has equipped you with this brochure that outlines some things to remember in order to avoid falling victim to a scam.

Central Savings Bank is a member of Fraud-Net, which is an online platform that allows members to read and post alerts about fraudulent activity in their areas.

For more information regarding the latest scams, please contact Central Savings bank at (906) 635-6250, or visit www.fraud.org.

Fake Check Scams:

- Fake check scammers hunt for victims
- They often claim to be in another country
- They tell you to wire money to them after you've deposited the check
- You don't have to wait long to use the money, but that doesn't mean the check is good
- You are responsible for the checks you deposit
- There is *no* legitimate reason for someone who is giving you money to ask you to wire money back
- Don't deposit it - report it!

CSB TIP:

Before disposing of mail items containing personal information, always remember to ensure that your personal information is no longer legible.

CSB TIP:

If you receive fraudulent material, or believe you have fallen victim to a scam, visit us at Central Savings Bank, where our staff is trained to recognize fraudulent information and deal with it appropriately.

Fighting Fraud

Lotteries and Lottery Club Scams:

- Crooks take advantage of our natural desire to win
- It's illegal to use the mail or phone to play lotteries across borders
- No matter how official these solicitations look or sound, they're not real
- Joining a lottery "club" won't improve your chances of winning foreign lotteries
- Giving your credit card or bank account numbers to strangers is dangerous
- Lottery scammers often insist the money be wired to them
- Your chances of recovering money from foreign crooks may be even worse than your chances of actually winning a lottery
- The only guarantee is that you'll end up on more "sucker lists"

Work-at-Home Scams:

- Know who you are dealing with
- Don't believe that you can make big profits easily
- Get all the details before you apply
- Find out if there is really a market for your work
- Get references for other people who are doing the work
- Be aware of legal requirements
- Know the refund policy
- Be wary of offers to send you an "advance" on your "pay"
- Do your own research about work-at-home opportunities

CSB TIP:
Regardless of whether you're opening mail, checking e-mail, or answering the phone, always remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Prizes and Sweepstakes Scams:

- Never pay to play
- Buying something doesn't improve your chances of winning
- Don't believe that you have to give the company money for taxes on your prize
- Guard your credit card and bank account numbers
- Be on guard for imposters
- Be wary of offers to send you an "advance" on your "winnings"
- Get the details in writing
- Don't be fooled by official-looking mail
- Be especially cautious about foreign sweepstakes companies
- Remember that con artists lie

CSB TIP:
It's pretty hard to win a lottery that you never signed up for.

Medicare Rx Drug Coverage Scams:

- Check the list of Medicare-approved prescription drug plans
- If someone says you must join or you'll lose your other Medicare benefits, it's a scam
- Guard your personal information from identity thieves posing as salespeople
- Never give out your bank account, credit card, or life insurance policy numbers.
- Know the law on how Medicare prescription drug plans can be marketed
- Don't be fooled by sales materials that look like they're from the government
- Don't confuse other types of drug coverage with Medicare plans
- Report suspected Medicare drug plan scams to the Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-337-4950