



PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST PHONE SCAMS

CRIME PREVENTION: MEDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phone scams are a growing problem, and it's important to be aware of them so you can protect yourself. Here are some of the most common phone scams to watch out for:

- **Tech support scams:** These scammers will call you and claim to be from a tech company, such as Microsoft or Apple. They will say that your computer has a virus or other problem, and they will try to pressure you into giving them remote access to your computer. Once they have access, they can steal your personal information or install malware on your computer.
- **Imposter scams:** These scammers will call you and pretend to be from a government agency, such as the IRS or the Social Security Administration. They will say that you owe money or that your benefits are in jeopardy. They will try to pressure you into giving them your personal information or making a payment.
- **Grandparent scams:** These scammers will call you and pretend to be your grandchild. They will say that they are in trouble and need money. They will try to pressure you into sending them money immediately.
- **Sweepstakes and lottery scams:** These scammers will call you and tell you that you have won a prize. They will ask you to pay a fee to claim your prize. However, there is no prize, and the fee is just a way for the scammer to steal your money.

If you receive a phone call from someone you don't know, don't give them any personal information. Don't click on any links in emails from people you don't know. And be sure to report any scams to the authorities.

Remember, **a police officer will never** contact you for any payments related to a warrant or missed court date. If you receive this type of call hang up and contact the Medina Police Department directly. Use only known phone numbers, do not use numbers provided by the caller to contact the department or officers.

Here are some additional tips to help you protect yourself from phone scams:

- Don't answer calls from numbers you don't recognize. If you do answer, don't give out any personal information.
- Be suspicious of any caller who asks for money or personal information.
- Never click on links in emails from people you don't know.

Medina Police Department: For emergencies, call 911 – Office (425) 233-6420