

ADVISORY: RESOURCES FOR FRAUD SCHEMES

Several of our community members have fallen victim to very convincing fraud schemes involving mortgage assistance, outstanding tax collection, foreign government assistance, and even to companies promising to return money lost in similar scams. These scams almost always request money be paid up front for services, or the threat of arrest, eviction or property seizure is made. Recently, several community members reported receiving suspicious telephone calls from young people claiming to be their grandchildren. These scammers asked for money for medical expenses, to avoid arrest, post bail or to purchase food. Our older community members are most often targeted and victimized in these cases.

Community members are strongly encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agency, or an allied government agency, before providing these scammers any money or personal information. Riverside County residents who are 65 years or older, or dependent adults (18 to 64 years old) can contact the Department of Public Social Services Adult Services Division CARE (Curtailing Abuse Related to the Elderly) Program at any time for assistance. CARE provides education to seniors and dependent adults, and one-on-one advocacy to those who need assistance filing complaints with regulatory or investigating agencies.

Community members are encouraged to contact the following agencies for assistance:

Riverside County Sheriff's Department – Jurupa Valley Station

(951) 955-2600

JurupaValleyStation@RiversideSheriff.org

Curtailing Abuse Related to the Elderly (CARE) Program

<http://dpss.co.riverside.ca.us/adult-services-division/care-program>

(800) 476-7506

California Department of Consumer Affairs

(800) 952-5210

www.dca.ca.gov

Federal Trade Commission

(202) 326-2222

<http://www.ftc.gov>

State of California Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General

(800) 952-5225

<http://oag.ca.gov>

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)

(800) 289-9999

www.finra.org

Better Business Bureau Inland Empire

(559) 222-8111

<http://www.bbb.org/central-california>

Tips for avoiding common fraud schemes can be located on the following Federal Bureau of Investigation website: <https://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud>

The Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station continues to investigate phony companies and scammers that victimize the community members we serve. If you believe you were victimized, or have any questions, please contact Investigator Holder at (951) 245-3119, or by email at LakeElsinoreStation@RiversideSheriff.org.

Citizens may also submit an anonymous tip using the Sheriff's CrimeTips online form. For full details, [view this message on the web](#).