

Scams

Scammers try new methods to trick you all the time. But if you know the signs to look for, you may avoid becoming a victim.

5 Signs of a Scam

If you spot any of these tactics, stop and walk away. You're probably being scammed.

1. They contacted you

When you contact a business, you know who's on the other end of the line. But when someone contacts *you* first, you can't be certain they're telling the truth. You don't know if they are whom they say they are. And remember, email addresses and caller ID information can be faked.

2. They dangle bait—usually money

Let's face it: People simply don't give away large sums of money easily. If someone dangles bait in front of you—a big prize, a shopping spree, an easy loan — for nothing, they're probably lying.

3. They want your personal information

Anytime *anyone* asks for your personal information — bank accounts, social security number, etc. — you should be on alert. Don't give it away quickly or easily, especially to someone you don't know. You may become a victim of identity theft.

4. You have to pay them first

If someone offers you a prize, debt relief, or employment — but first you have to pay an upfront fee to get it —you're probably being scammed.

5. You have to wire money or send gift cards

If you're about to wire money or send gift cards to someone in order to receive a prize or pay off a debt collector that contacts you ...**STOP!** This may be a scammer trying to take your money.

Click the links below to learn how to better protect yourself online and guard against identity theft. <http://myfloridalegal.com/pages.nsf/Main/EE9802F4D14CA877852581F5004491...>

Important message from the Office of the Florida Attorney General.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtWm0D96_ic

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scam>

