



The Best Way to Avoid Telephone Scams Is Also the Easiest...

# JUST HANG UP

Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline - 1-800-386-5438

Every day, seniors throughout Illinois fall prey to smooth-talking con artists who call them up and tell all kinds of convincing stories to get their money. Scammers press you to act immediately, so you don't have time to think. But that is always a sign of a scam.

The Office of the Illinois Attorney General wants you to know: "it's shrewd, not rude" to hang up the phone when a stranger asks you to send them money or give out your personal information.

These are some warning signs of common telephone scams. If you spot any of these signs while on the phone, don't think twice:

## *Just Hang Up!*



### **SCAMMERS HIDE THEIR IDENTITY.**

When you look up the number of a reputable business on your own and call to place an order, you have a good idea who's on the other end of the deal. But when the tables are turned and someone calls you, you have no way of knowing who the person really is, where they're calling from, or what they want from you. *Just Hang Up!*

**Caller ID Spoofing** is when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display.

**A call that looks local or like it's from an agency may be fake.**



### **SCAMMERS WANT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION.**

Any time a stranger asks you for your bank account number, Social Security number, or other sensitive information, be on high alert! This is a sure sign of identity theft. **Never** give personal or financial information to someone you do not know. *Just Hang Up!*



### SCAMMERS PROMISE A BIG AWARD.

Scammers try to lure you in with promises of unexpected riches such as sweepstake prizes, a large sum of money, a vacation, or a “get rich quick” investment scheme. Remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

***Just Hang Up!***



### SCAMMERS SAY PAY THEM FIRST.

It is illegal for someone to require an upfront payment to claim a lottery or sweepstakes prize. Scammers will often tell you that you must wire money out of state, or even out of the country, to obtain your winnings. **Never** wire money to strangers. Wiring money is just like sending cash—scammers will get the money quickly, and you won’t get it back. ***Just Hang Up!***

## TO AVOID UNWANTED PHONE SOLICITATIONS

If you answer the phone and the caller asks you to hit a button to stop getting the calls, you should just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify potential targets. Consider placing your phone number on the **National Do Not Call Registry**. Once your number is on the registry, you’ll know that any telemarketer who does call you is probably up to no good. You can register your home phone or cell phone online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling **1-888-382-1222** from the phone number you wish to register.



If you’ve fallen victim to or want to report a telephone scam, please contact the **Illinois Attorney General’s Consumer Fraud Hotline** at 1-800-386-5438 or **Senior Fraud Helpline** at 1-800-243-5377.

Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 711 relay service.



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ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL