



Legal Issues that Affect Elders

Presented By:

Kellie Tyndall
Senior Victim Advocate

&

Melissa McMurdo
Deputy District Attorney



Ventura County
District Attorney
Erik Nasarenko



**The District
Attorney's
Office
*Overview***

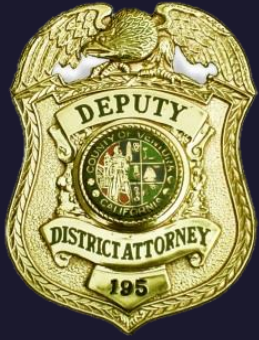
Approximately 106 Prosecutors

Approximately 50+ District Attorney
Investigators

34 Victim Advocates

Various Units, including Elder Abuse
Unit

The Criminal Justice Process



What is “Elder Abuse”?

- 65 years or older
 - Includes physical, sexual or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment and financial exploitation
 - Can occur in any setting
 - Can occur either in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust
- and/or**
- When an older person is targeted based on age or disability.

Most Common Forms of Elder Abuse?

Financial Exploitation
&
Physical Abuse

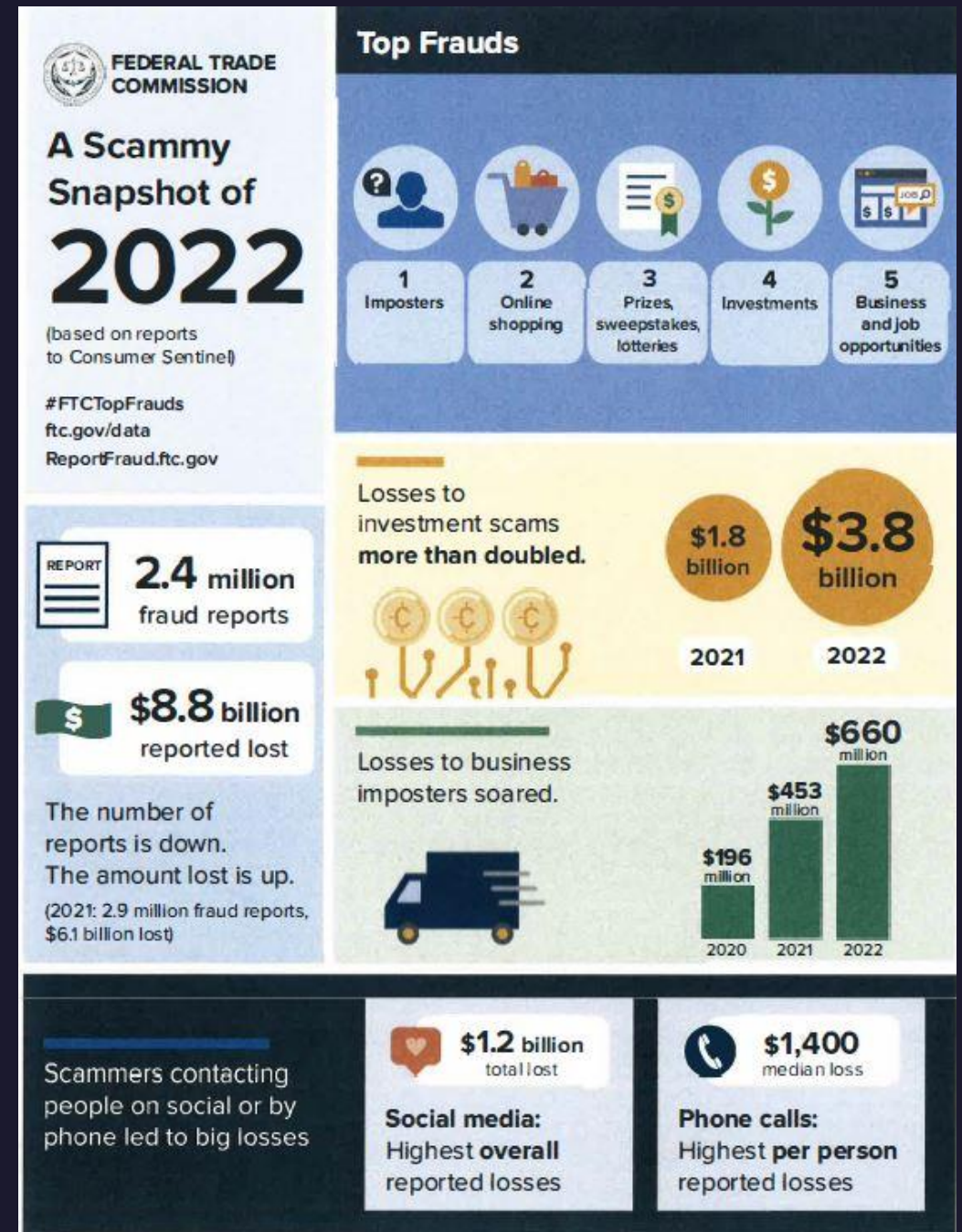




Let's Talk About Financial Fraud & Scams

Top Frauds:

- 1) Imposters
- 2) Online Shopping
- 3) Prizes, Sweepstakes, Lotteries
- 4) Investments
- 5) Business and Job “Opportunities”





How to Avoid Scams 101

**DON'T
ANSWER YOUR
PHONE!**



INCOMING CALL



Scammer
calling...

ACCEPT

REJECT

You wouldn't have to
think about it... if you
didn't answer your
phone

It's a scam!
Don't Answer Your
Phone!

Example of a Family Emergency Scam Call

Hi Grandpa, it's me.



Sebastian? Is that you?



Yes, it's me, Sebastian.
Grandpa, I'm in trouble,
and I need money for bail.

What happened?

Please don't tell
Mom or Dad. I'll get
in so much trouble.

Please help me!



Important Tips to Remember to Avoid Scams



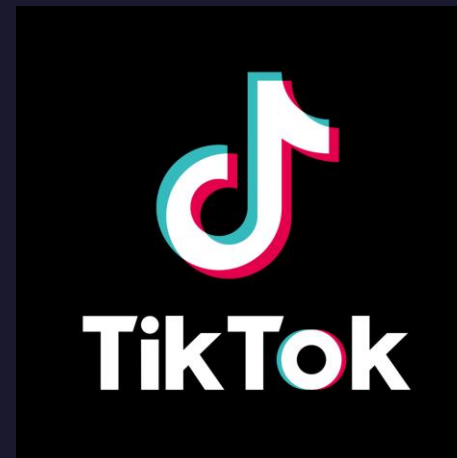
- No one is giving you free money
- Don't pay strangers for a free service
- If you won something, you won't have to pay fees/taxes
- Don't give your bank information out
- Nothing is urgent – scammers appeal to urgency and emotion
- Do not click embedded links emailed or texted to you – always verify through an independent search
- **Do not answer your phone unless you know the caller**



Who uses the Internet? How to stay safe.

- Don't talk with people you don't know.
- Don't make friends online and give out your information
- Do not give away your money to gain friendships.

Remember it is ok to say No!



‘Tis the (Tax) Season... What to know about IRS Scammers



- The original IRS scams included making contact over the phone about a tax threat to get you to pay up – “you better pay these back taxes in crypto currency or else you’ll be arrested!”
- Now, tax scammers are using text messages and mention a “tax rebate” – all you have to do is click the embedded link in the text. This is a tactic to get personal information to commit ID theft, or hack your phone.
- You can find the status of any pending refunds on the IRS website

Get a call from the IRS or some other official agency, bank, etc.?

- Don't give the caller information
- Write down the details
- HANG UP
- Contact the IRS, agency, bank, etc. DIRECTLY
- Report the call
- Tell your friends & family



Other Types of Financial Abuse



Taking over
accounts

Unauthorized
Purchases



Property Title



How To Keep Your ATM Card Safe.

- When possible, go inside the bank to use the ATM.
- Get money out during the day.
- Use an ATM that is familiar and in a busy public place.
- Don't share your password.



Life Planning

- Will
- Medical Power of Attorney
- Limited Statutory Power of Attorney
- Designation of Guardian
- Advanced Directive to Physicians





Grey Law of Ventura County

- Free legal advice for seniors in Ventura County
- Contact Info
 - Call Grey Law at (805) 658-2266
 - Email msw98488@gmail.com
 - 266 Mobil Ave, Ste 108A, Camarillo, 93010



Helping Victims Under One Roof



Ventura County Family Justice Center



Call 805-652-7655



Email
vcfjc.coop@ventura.org



Text 805-947-7981



Visit by Appointment
M – F 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Follow us



Ventura County District Attorney Courthouse Facility Dogs

Comet, Star, and Trakr



Key Takeaway

- Do not answer calls you do not recognize
- Do not click on embedded links



Scam and
Fraud
Prevention
Academy
Coming in
Summer 2023





Kellie Tyndall

Senior Victim Advocate

800 S. Victoria Avenue

Hall of Justice - Room 311

Ventura, CA 93009

(805) 654-3622

Kellie.Tyndall@ventura.org



Melissa McMurdo

Deputy District Attorney

3170 Loma Vista Road

Family Justice Center

Ventura, CA 93009

(805)652-7623

Melissa.McMurdo@ventura.org