



# FRAUD ALERT

## PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST SCAMS & FRAUD

### FRAUD SCHEMES & SCAMS CURRENTLY TRENDING IN WEST DUNDEE

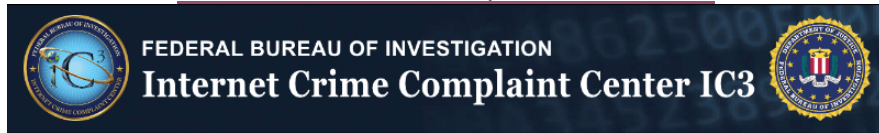
Scammers and con artists are constantly inventing new ways to fraudulently obtain victims' money. Some may contact victims by phone calls, texts, video chat, social media chat, and email. Some represent themselves as lonely romantics, financial institutions, government agencies, infectious disease control centers and sweepstakes companies. Some come to your door in person, posing as utility or municipal workers. Victims range from individual citizens of all ages (teens through seniors) to businesses and charitable organizations.

#### **BEST PRACTICE:**

- ***If you don't recognize the phone number calling, the email sender, or the person knocking at your door, simply DO NOT ANSWER!***
- ***NEVER purchase gift cards to pay for any alleged debt. Scammers will ask victims to purchase gift cards and ask for photos of the gift card codes. Legitimate debtors will never request for payment in the form of gift cards.***
- ***NEVER send photos or videos of yourself to others. Romance scam artists will threaten to forward embarrassing photos/videos for ransom money, with requested payment in the form of gift cards.***

**Resources:** [FBI.gov](http://FBI.gov) identifies thirty various trending fraudulent schemes, cons, and identity theft activities to familiarize yourself with. If you have been the victim of an internet based fraud (cybercrime) you can file a complaint online with the FBI at:

[FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center IC3](http://FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center IC3).



Please take a moment to visit the [FBI.gov website](http://FBI.gov) and the [Federal Trade Commission website](http://Federal Trade Commission website) to learn more.

**Visit WDPD:** Stop in at the West Dundee Police Department to receive a free Identity Theft Guide.

**FREE IDENTITY THEFT GUIDE:  
Available at the West Dundee  
Police Department  
(555 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street).**



### FRAUD SCHEMES & SCAMS AGAINST WEST DUNDEE RESIDENTS

#### ***FOLLOWING SCAMS HAVE BEEN USED TO DEFRAUD VICTIMS:***

- Bank Representative Scam (Victims lost funds from accounts after providing account information)
- Publishers Clearing House Scam (Victims paid in gift cards for delivery of phony prize)
- Car Rental Agency Scam (Victims paid in gift cards for fraudulent discount coupon)
- Police Department Warrant Scam (Victims paid fictitious bond amounts, with gift cards, to satisfy warrant)
- Amazon Account Representative Scam (Victims paid to resolve fake account issues with gift cards)
- Romance Scam via Video & Social Media Chat (Victims enticed to share risqué photos, then paid ransom in form of gift cards)
- Facebook Work From Home Scam (Victims paid phony fee's with gift cards)
- Computer Hacker Scam (Victims paid to release frozen computer with gift cards)
- Church Check Fraud Scam (Victims defrauded with donation checks)

**IF YOU ARE A VICTIM CALL  
847-428-8784 or 911**

**Officers will come to your location,  
call you by phone, or you may  
report in person at the West  
Dundee P.D.**