York County
Elder Abuse Task Force

Fraud Alert Bulletin

March 2026

This is a Fraud Alert issued by the York County Elder Abuse Task Force.

Periodically, members of the Task Force, along with the York County District Attorney's office who prosecute these devastating financial crimes will offer warnings about the latest financial scams targeting seniors here in York County.

Educating seniors about financial fraud is a top priority of the York County Elder Abuse Task Force. With that in mind, we want every senior in York County to remember the **3 Rs:**
Recognize a potential scam;
Refuse to make any hasty decisions; and
Report suspicious activity to police.
Stay safe and feel free to contact Area Agency on Aging at 717 771 9610 or the District Attorney Timothy Barker at the District Attorney's Office (717-771-9600) with any questions.

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Card-declined scams

Credit cards are declined while making online purchases. They try using a different card, but that one fails, too. Despite the card-declined notices, the charges have actually occurred for each transaction and often for more than they thought. A card was denied, one victim tried it a second time, and received the same card-declined message. Then their credit card company alerted them that it had declined a $2,500 charge, even though they hadn't made a $2,500.

This fraud typically occurs when people visit fraudulent sites or click on fraudulent links.

How to stay safe:

Always use a credit card rather than a debit card, because credit cards offer stronger fraud protection. If you're unfamiliar with a company, research it before making a purchase. And make sure a website is genuine. Scammers often build lookalike sites, the BBB notes, so scrutinize the URL (sometimes a letter or two might be different).

Perhaps most importantly, if you receive an unsolicited offer, ignore it. Don't click on any links or answer any calls. Those same rules apply to shopping and charity scams. If you didn't ask for it, don't touch it.