York County
Elder Abuse Task Force

Fraud Alert Bulletin

February 2025

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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"Accidental" Text Messages

Have you gotten a text message that seems genuine, but it also appears to be intended for someone else? It might say something like, "Sorry I'm running late, I'll be there in 15 minutes." Not wanting to be rude, you respond to tell the sender they've got the wrong number.

These wrong number texts are often the first step in a romance or employment scam. Although there's sometimes a scammer on the other end from the start, scammers can also use AI messaging bots to target thousands of people at a time.

How do accidental text scams work?

- Scammers start by sending a basic greeting or reminder about fake plans
- They use social engineering to exploit your friendliness and gain your trust
- They try to become friends or even cultivate a remote romantic relationship
- They eventually try to steal your personal data
- How can you report accidental text scams?

You can report unwanted text messages by:

- Texting the message to 7726 (SPAM)
- Reporting Tex within your text messaging app
- Reporting the text directly to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov