

Greetings fellow York
Countians,

This is a Fraud Alert issued by the York County Elder Abuse Task Force. Periodically, members of 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 District Attorney Dave Sunday at the District Attorney's Office (717-771-9600) with any questions.

Dave Sunday
District Attorney



FRAUD ALERT – Identifying Fake Check Scams

Scammers are becoming more savvy and aggressive in targeting seniors in York County. One common tactic is to send seniors official-looking checks in the mail with instructions to send money back to the person or company that sent the check for various reasons. If you or a loved one receive an check in the mail, look for the following scam warning signs:

- **Instructions to send money:** fake checks frequently include instructions for the recipient to send money back to the person or company that issued the check in order to clear back taxes and/or fees. If you receive a check in the mail with these instructions, it's a scam. Legitimate companies do not request check recipients to send any of their own money for such taxes and/or fees. These instructions are only meant to deceive you and to take your money.
- **Unsolicited checks:** an easy way to determine whether you have received a fraudulent check is to look at who issued the check. If you receive a check from a person or company that you do not recognize the check is most likely a scam. If you receive an unsolicited check from a company you do recognize, contact that company prior to negotiating the check to assure the check is legitimate.
- **The check is for more than selling price:** If you are selling something via a classified ad or online and you are sent a check by a buyer for far more than purchase price, it is a scam. The scammer will request the check recipient to send back the difference between the check and the sale price. However, when all is said and done, the check has bounced and you are out the amount you transferred.
- **Remember, never send money back to someone who sent you a check.**

It is always a good idea to talk to your bank about receiving an unsolicited check in the mail before depositing it. If you are concerned about the legitimacy of the check, your bank is more than willing to help you determine if the check is legitimate and help you avoid being the victim of a scam.

If you receive an unsolicited check that you believe to be a scam, report it to the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC has a number of articles with tips to avoid becoming a victim of a scam available on its website, ftc.gov.