



AARP's Fraud Watch Network can help you spot and avoid scams. Sign up for free "Watchdog Alerts", review our scam-tracking map, or call our toll-free helpline, 877-908-3360 if you or a loved one suspect you've been a victim.



# FraudWatch Newsletter



**Utility Scams:** As temperatures drop in many states, criminals are turning up the heat on their deceptive tactics. While utility scams happen year-round, scammers are especially active when customers rely on these essential services to stay warm and safe. They pose as utility companies, claiming you're behind on your bill, and threatening to cut off service unless you make an immediate payment. Their goal is to trigger panic. When fear takes over, it becomes harder to think clearly, and they hope we stay in that state of panic just long enough to push through a payment. If you receive an unexpected call claiming your service will be shut off, hang up. Then contact your utility provider directly using the customer service number on a recent bill or by logging into your account online. In most cases, you'll find everything is in good standing. *Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.*



**Work From Home Scams:** Criminals often pose as legitimate employers on job boards, social media, or send unsolicited texts, promising easy money, flexible hours, and a quick hiring process. What they're really after is personal information or our money by asking to pay upfront for "training," purchase expensive equipment, or provide sensitive details—such as your Social Security number—as part of the application. Be cautious of sudden, unusually high-paying opportunities that require little to no experience. Avoid sharing personal data until you're certain the job offer is legitimate and take time to research the company by searching its name along with the words scam, complaint, or fraud. If you see concerns from other job seekers, it's a clear red flag.

Call The Wyoming Senior Medicare Patrol for assistance with potential Medicare fraud or abuse at 1-800-856-4398

## Information and resources to help you with...

- **Find resources and information around VA benefits, health, caregiving, fraud and employment for retired and active-duty military and their families by going to [aarp.org/veterans](http://aarp.org/veterans) or calling our toll-free nationwide phone number 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277).**
- **Family caregiving:** Call the Caregiving Resource Center for a free Prepare to Care Guide (1-877-333-5885).
- **Fraud and scams:** Call the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline toll-free (1-877-908-3360).

## CyberWyoming Alliance

Please report your scams to:

[phishing@cyberwyoming.org](mailto:phishing@cyberwyoming.org)

307-223-1265



CyberWyoming Alliance's goal is for Wyoming to be the most cyber-secure state in the nation. To do this, we know that cybersecurity efforts have to be local, trusted, and grassroots in nature.





***If abuse, neglect, abandonment,  
intimidation or financial exploitation of an older adult is  
occurring, report it to Adult Protective Services.***

**Basics of what DFS/APS can do:**

- If an abuse/neglect case is reported and opened, an APS Caseworker will respond within 24-72 hours, depending on immediate danger or impending harm.
- APS is mandated by statute to notify law enforcement.
- An APS Caseworker will interview the vulnerable adult to determine the facts of the situation.
- APS works with the vulnerable adult regarding availability of community services he/she is agreeable to receive in order to ensure his/her safety.

**Basics of what DFS/APS cannot do:**

- APS cannot force anyone to accept help, adults have the right to refuse.
- APS cannot force anyone to reside in a nursing home, APS is committed to keeping vulnerable adults as safe as possible, in their own homes.

**How to make a report:**

Call (307)777-7564 or click on [dfs.wyo.gov/about/contact-us/](https://dfs.wyo.gov/about/contact-us/) This is a link with contact information to each community in Wyoming that has a DFS office. APS abuse/neglect reports can also be made by contacting law enforcement in the community where the abuse is taking place.



**WYOMING DEPARTMENT  
OF FAMILY SERVICES**

*Safe at home • Giving families opportunities for success • Supporting the people who support the families*

