

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.



Fraud Watch Newsletter



Fraud reached unprecedented levels in 2024, with a staggering \$12.5 billion lost, a shocking increase of 25% over 2023. The number of reports remained stable from 2023 to 2024, but the percentage of reporters who had money stolen jumped from 27% to 38%. Key Takeaways: Impostor scams continue to rise, with criminals impersonating trusted individuals, companies, or government agencies to deceive victims. 1 in 5 victims of impostor scams had money stolen from them, with an average loss of about \$800 per person. Many scams were tied to gift card purchases or cryptocurrency, with a total of \$2.95 billion being stolen from consumers across the country. Email remained the most popular method for criminals to reach their victims, with a 25% increase in its use compared to last year. Last October, the FTC factored in underreporting from 2023, estimating that the \$10.4 billion in losses reported to the agency that year was more like \$158.3 billion.



Several scams rely on convincing the target to deposit a check as a first step of the crime. They then convince the target to use the money in a specific way. For example, in some work-from-home scams, the "company" will send a check for deposit, and then once it "clears", they direct the target to purchase needed office equipment from the company's "catalogue". The catch? The check was fake and it bounced, and the equipment catalogue was fake, too. The money the target spent on "equipment" came from their own money. And, the equipment never comes. Even though a check deposit may appear to be cleared on your banking app or website, the process can take several weeks. When the check is determined to be fake, the target is out that money. Be suspicious anytime someone wants to send a check that you then must act on with some immediacy – making purchases, paying a fee or sending funds to a third party for example.

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 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
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/
 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

WYOMING FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES®



FIGHTING HUNGER. FEEDING HOPE.
WyomingFoodBank.org



Mobile Food Pantries Coming To Your Area:

MAY 1 - PINEDALE	RENDEZVOUS POINT	11A-1P
MAY 2 - ROCK RIVER	321 AVENUE D	10:30A-12:30P
MAY 6 - LYMAN	BRIDGER VALLEY BAPTIST	4P-7P
MAY 9 - HANNA	TOWN SHOP, 407 LOWE	10A-12P
MAY 10 - BASIN	FAIRGROUNDS	10A-12P
MAY 15 - NEWCASTLE	FAIRGROUNDS	11A-1P
MAY 16 - WRIGHT	1231 E ELKHORN AVE	1-3P
MAY 17 - KAYCEE	HAROLD JARRARD PARK	9A-11A
MAY 17 - ROCK SPRINGS	WHITE MOUNTAIN MALL	11:30A-1P
MAY 20 - BUFFALO	FAIRGROUNDS BUILDING	12-2P
MAY 27 - ARAPAHOE	ARAPAHOE SCHOOL	12-2P
MAY 27 - FT. WASHAKIE	EASTERN SHOSHONI TRIBAL HEALTH	12-2P
MAY 29 - SHERIDAN	FAIRGROUNDS	9A-11A