



## Popular Scams To Be Aware Of

Sea West Coast Guard Federal Credit Union would like to provide the following list of the popular scams being reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Better Business Bureau (BBB), Fraud.org and consumerfraudreporting.org.

- **Debt Collection**

Complaints falling under this category involve credit/debit card fees, pay day loans, credit repair companies and unauthorized use of credit/debit cards. Many of these complaints report hidden fees and billing disputes as well. Make sure you understand all disclosures before signing.

- **Fake Government Officials**

If you receive any correspondence purporting to be from a government agency (typically the IRS or FBI) that instructs you to wire money or follow a link and enter payment information - don't believe it! The U.S. government never asks consumers to use these methods to pay any bill or carry out a financial transaction, especially with an overseas bank or agency.

- **Phishing, Pharming and Identity Theft**

All of these scams are meant to give thieves access to your confidential information, like social security numbers and dates of birth which they then use to apply for credit cards, loans and financial accounts. Generally, you receive an email that appears to be from a real bank or credit card company that you may, or may not, do business with. The email includes fraudulent links to a website and requests that you update account information. Always verify the sender, sometimes hovering the cursor over the link will display the fake email or website.

- **Telephone Scams**

These scams include telemarketers violating the Do Not Call list and "Robo Dialers". They also include calls that pretend to be from a reputable bank or credit card company. Scammers are quick to call, even if you've signed-up for Do Not Call. Report these calls to the FTC at <https://www.ftc.gov/>

- **Loan Scams/Credit Repair**

Any call or correspondence that falsely promises a business or personal loan, even if your credit is bad, for a fee. Also includes promises to repair your bad credit for a fee.

- **Fake Prizes, Sweepstakes, Free Gifts, Lottery Scams**

Please remember, if you didn't enter you certainly didn't win! Any correspondence that requests you pay "just a small fee" to claim a prize, lottery winnings or a gift is a scam. These include scams which can go under the name of genuine lotteries. Scammers contact you via unsolicited emails or telephone calls saying you are being entered or have already been entered into a prize drawing. Later, you receive a call congratulating you on winning a sizable prize. No genuine lottery asks for money to pay fees or notifies winners via email.

- **Internet Merchandise Scams**

You purchase something online, but it is either never delivered or it is not what they claimed it was, or it is defective. Online shopping and shop from home scams are on the rise.

- **Vehicle Related Complaints**

Consumers reported repair companies that return vehicles to the consumer in worse condition than when the vehicle was dropped off. Other complaints involved consumers not receiving payment for repairs performed under an extended warranty and titles to their vehicles not being given to them at the time of sale.