



# DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## ***Phone/Email SCAM Awareness***

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office wants to bring scam awareness to as many people as possible since it is such a threat to everyone's financial well-being. Unfortunately, many people fall victim to these criminals with little justice and almost no recovery of financial losses. In 2021, there was just under 2,500 reported cases of Identity Theft in Douglas County and only 33 people were arrested. The Sheriff's Office is doing the best they can to find the suspects, but the sad reality is they disappear with the advancement of technology and foreign locations helping them cover their tracks. Therefore, it is so important to follow some self-created rules when faced with a phone call or email. Below are suggestions that is a good way to protect yourself against any scam that comes in by phone or email.

### *Scams over the Phone:*

- **NEVER give out information** to someone who calls you. If they reach out to you, do not share personal information. No matter how legitimate it seems, tell them you must call them back.
- **NEVER CALL THEM BACK.** Do not call the same number they called you from or the number they give you. If you do, you are back in the potential scam. Therefore, it is important to find the accurate number of the entity the caller is claiming to be. You can find correct numbers by a quick Google search.
- **Know ALL correct numbers** to anyone you do business with. You can find true numbers to any business by doing a quick Google search. When in doubt, call the CORRECT number of the received business to confirm the authenticity of the clam.
- **Only after you call them on the correct number is it ok to conduct business.**

### Scams through Email:

- **Use the S.T.O.P. Method**

- Ask yourself, is this email...

- **S- suspicious**

- Look at the email address closely. Do you know the address? Look for tricks; is it a lowercase L or a 1, an O or a zero, S or 5.
    - In the narrative of the email, are there mis-spelled words or bad grammar?
    - Signature Lines should have names on it. If the signature line is absent of a person's name, that should be a red flag.

- **T- Telling me to click on a link/attachment?**

- Only click on links that you know are 100% safe, NOTHING LESS!!
    - Links and attachments could have viruses.

- **O- Offering something AMAZING**

- If someone is offering you something too good to be true, it is. Stop and delete

- **P- Pushing you to act quickly**

- No email is urgent. You have time, do not give it up for unknown people. Take your time and research, look, and ask around before acting.

*Take your time, Calls and emails are never an act now!*

Scammers try to create an urgency to act NOW! This is a tactic to miss the red flags. Remember, you have time. You have time to research. You have time to verify. You have time to confirm. YOU HAVE THE TIME. Do not let them create an emergency. If they do, hang up and call the correct number to verify.



Feel free to contact me if you can't find the correct number or if you cannot figure out if it is a scam or not. My office number is 303-663-7748, my office hours are Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm (every other Monday off). Ask for your Senior Resource Deputy, Ryan Falkner. I am here for you. You can also call the Community Resource line at 303-663-7544 for a quicker response. We have a whole team willing to help!

It's better to take your time by doing your research or contacting us than it is to risk losing everything. Remember, these scammers are professional criminals and are master manipulators. They are great at what they do! Please research, verify, notify, or reach out for any questions.

Senior Resource Deputy, Ryan Falkner

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