

With our work and home lives greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ohio Attorney General's Office is here to help.

Scammers have tailored their schemes to prey on the fear and uncertainty surrounding **COVID-19** in an effort to trick consumers into handing over personal information or money.

Tips to help steer clear of COVID-19 scams:

Watch out for emails claiming to be from expert sources with special advice or info about COVID-19. Legitimate information is available for free at **www.cdc.gov** and **www.coronavirus.ohio.gov**.

Research nonprofit organizations and crowdfunding campaigns before donating.

Be cautious of anyone going door to door offering **coronavirus testing** or requesting personal info.

Ignore **advertisements** promoting cures for the coronavirus.

Beware of emails, texts and other **attempts to "phish"** for your personal, financial or medical information.



Red flags of a COVID-19 scam



Pressure to buy something, share personal info or donate money.



A stranger asking for cash, wire transfers or gift cards.



Sudden requests to click on a suspicious link or download an unknown file.

PROTECTING ★ THE ★ UNPROTECTED

Tens of thousands of consumers turn to the **Ohio Attorney General's Office** each year for **FREE** help in resolving consumer issues, learning how to avoid scams and deceptive practices, and finding dependable information on a wide range of other topics. **The Consumer Protection Section offers:**

Informal Dispute Resolution

Trained consumer complaint specialists work with consumers and businesses to resolve ongoing disputes for many types of consumer transactions.

Common complaints involve debt collection, used cars, home improvements, price gouging and COVID-related cancellations and refunds.

Presentations

Qualified consumer educators conduct presentations to educate groups or organizations on consumer-related topics such as senior scams, ID theft, cybersecurity and more. Currently, all presentations are offered virtually.

Identity Theft Response

Consumer advocates work to rectify the effects of identity theft.

Robocall Enforcement Unit

Ohioans can report illegal robocalls, which allows the unit to share that data to help trace some of the calls.

Publications

The Consumer Protection Section offers a number of publications, online and in-print, to educate on various consumer-related topics.



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

For more information about these and other important consumer protection issues, visit www.OhioProtects.org or call 800-282-0515.