

Anatomy of a Scam Checklist: Computer

More seniors than ever are online. The Pew Research Center reports that 53 percent of those 65 and older use internet or email, and one in three (34 percent) now use social networking sites.* The National Association of Triads, the Home Instead Senior Care® network and the FBI offer these tips for safer computer use:

Make sure your computer has all the security it needs and a security updating system. There are many anti-virus programs available, ranging from expensive to free, so check with a trusted source who is knowledgeable about computers.

Obtain a physical address rather than simply a post office box and a telephone number, and call the seller to see if the telephone number is correct and working.

Avoid sending personal information. Scammers might send out email on bank letterhead and say there is a problem with the account and you need to update information, password and account number.

Learn to identify spam and scams. Don't respond to emails from people you don't know or to emails you haven't expected to receive. Above all, don't give out personal information, including your Social Security number and banking and credit-card numbers, to anyone you don't know.

When making online purchases, don't give out your credit-card number online unless the website is secure and reputable. Sometimes a tiny icon of a padlock appears to symbolize a higher level of security to transmit data. This icon is not a guarantee of a secure site, but it may provide some assurance; however, don't trust a website just because it claims to be secure.

Make sure you are purchasing merchandise from a reputable source. Do your homework on the individual or company to ensure that they are legitimate.

Guard your account information carefully. Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as Nigerian or foreign government officials asking for your help in placing large sums of money in overseas bank accounts. Do not believe the promise of large sums of money for your cooperation.

Send an email to the seller to make sure the email address is active, and be wary of those who utilize free email services where a credit card wasn't required to open the account. Check with the Better Business Bureau from the seller's area. Check out other websites regarding this person/company.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2012/Older-adults-and-internet-use.aspx>

Contact local law enforcement if you think someone has scammed your senior or might be trying to do so. For more about protecting your seniors from scammers, contact your [local Home Instead Senior Care® office](#), or visit

ProtectSeniorsFromFraud.com.



Anatomy of a Scam Checklist: Computer



For more information about protecting your seniors from scammers, contact your [local Home Instead Senior Care® office](#), or visit ProtectSeniorsFromFraud.com.

Contact local law enforcement if you think someone has scammed your senior or might be trying to do so.

- **Contact 1**

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

- **Contact 2**

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

- **Contact 3**

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____

- **Contact 4**

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Website: _____