

LYNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Safety Tips: Telephone Scams

In the modern world, telephones have become an increasingly large part of our lives. Unfortunately, criminals have learned how to use our phones as a tool to defraud people of their life savings. Often the targets of these scams are the elderly and other vulnerable populations. Here are a few tips to help keep you and your hard-earned savings safe:

- **Guard your personal information:** Be cautious if someone calls you unexpectedly and asks for personal information or passwords. Often these callers seem nice and helpful. If you believe it may be legitimate, call the organization back at a known phone number. Doublecheck the phone number via an Internet search. You may find other victims reporting the scam online.
- **Imposters:** Scammers may pretend to be from a government agency or company. Law enforcement agencies will NEVER ask for money to avoid arresting you for an outstanding warrant or other criminal charge. Contact your local law enforcement immediately.
- **Asking for payment:** No government agency or legitimate business will ask that you pay by gift cards, bitcoin or other digital currency, or by immediately wiring money. These agencies and businesses will not ask you to send money to get your money back or to get a larger sum of money. They will not ask for your bank account numbers or ask you to withdraw money from retirement accounts.
- **Resist Pressure:** Scammers will often pressure you to act quickly. Scammers may also try to use fear or intimidation to get what they want. People who are genuinely trying to help will not.

Following these tips can help to reduce the likelihood of becoming the victim of a scam. If you believe you have been victimized or have questions regarding a situation you may be involved in, immediately contact the police at 502-574-5471 (911 for Emergencies).