

DASH Out Fraud

You can't hide from fraud, but you can **DASH** fraud.



1 IN 7 IS A VICTIM OF FRAUD EVERY YEAR*

It can happen to anyone. Becoming a victim of fraud can be life changing, not to mention embarrassing.

To prevent it from happening to you, learn to recognize how, when, and where fraud occurs. Today, the **computer** is the most common medium for fraud attempts—through innocent emails from “nice” people or companies. The **door-to-door** salesperson is one of the oldest ploys. And, of course, there are numerous attempts through the **mail** and by **telephone**.



These seemingly “nice” people or companies are looking for assistance, selling home repair services, promising winnings, asking to verify personal information, and much more. They’re con artists, trying to separate you from your money.

* Source: Federal Trade Commission



www.DASHfraud.org



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO **DASH** ATTEMPTS



DELETE UNSOLICITED EMAILS & TEXTS.

NO financial services company will ask for personal information via email. If the email is about someone in trouble, call a mutual friend or a relative to confirm. And, never click on links. Go directly to websites by typing in the known web address.



ASK FOR PERMITS FROM DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESPEOPLE.

Anyone involved in transient selling must have a permit. If in question, call your local municipality or authorities. And, never let them into your house to wait while you call.



SHRED JUNK MAIL.

If you receive a mail offer that sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If the offer is of interest, research reviews online, ask friends, and check the Better Business Bureau.



HANG-UP UNSOLICITED CALLS.

Many calls involve “claiming a prize,” sending money, or confirming personal information. If you think it is legitimate, get the name of the company, the phone number, and research. Never give personal information to a stranger.

Visit the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov. Follow the links for **Consumer Protection** and get on the Do Not Email, Do Not Mail, and Do Not Call lists.

With these tips, you can protect yourself from becoming a victim. It is important to act quickly and with confidence.

If you are not sure if something is legitimate, you can research online, contact authorities or local experts, and you can even reach out to family and friends.

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO **DASH** FRAUD

- Police: _____
- Town/City Office: _____
- Local Banker: _____
- Attorney General: _____
- Other: _____
- Other: _____

DASH Fraud A program in collaboration with the Maine Fraud Prevention Alliance

- Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution sbsavings.com
- Southern Maine Agency on Aging smaaa.org
- Scarborough Community Services scarborough.me.us
- Biddeford 50+ Club biddefordrec.com
- The Wardwell Neighborhood wardwell.org
- Maine Senior College Network maineseniorcollege.org
- AARP Maine aarp.org/me

- Old Orchard Beach Police Department oobmaine.com
- Biddeford Police Department biddefordmaine.org
- Saco Police Department sacomaine.org
- Maine Bankers Association mainebankers.com
- Broadreach Public Relations broadreachpr.com
- PL Design pldesignmaine.com