

# Ounce of Prevention: A Proactive Approach to Scams



- Current scams
- Most successful scams
- Where scams come from
- Why scams work
- Recognizing scams
- How to respond to scams
- Recovering from scams
- Scam technology

Each day thousands of Pierce County residents are approached by scammers. Hundreds of people fall victim to them every year. The targets are all ages, all incomes, all occupations, all education levels. They come by way of e-mail, telephone, US postal mail, flyers and in-person appeals. Victims lose thousands of dollars, sometimes their whole life savings. Each year scammers become better and more sophisticated at their trade. It is a craft in which they take great pride. Learn about successful tools that we can all use to remain safe from these predatory scams.

**Thursday, March 11, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.**

Register in advance online at: <http://bit.ly/3acAEt4>

Join by phone at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 944 4755 9156

**Saturday, March 13, 2021 - 9:30 a.m.**

Register in advance online at: <http://bit.ly/39kKkT2>

Join by phone at 253-215-8782 or 888-788-0099 – Webinar ID: 936 6787 6353

*Click links to register. Instructions for joining will be sent upon registration.*

*A free, information-only event provided by*

**Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources**

For additional information or to register by phone call

(253) 798-4600 or (800) 562-0332



## Learn the Tools and Techniques to Avoid Scams

Some days you just want to scream at your telephone or your computer. “How stupid do they think I am?” That’s one reaction to scams. But more often than not consumers may not even recognize the truly effective scams. They are that good.

“An Ounce of Prevention: A Positive Approach to Scams” will provide participants the tools and techniques to recognize and prevent scams. The free, online workshop will answer key questions. What are the most prevalent scams today? What can people do to prevent being scammed? What are the best tools to use – both high tech and low tech? How can victims recover from scams?

The presentation will be held two times online in March. Advance registration is required:

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“It is no secret that we are all being approached more frequently with scams,” said Aaron Van Valkenburg, Manager of Pierce County Aging & Disability Resources. “Everyone seems to be receiving more robocalls, e-mail appeals, text messages, social media, voice messages from the IRS, Medicare, Social Security, courts, police and the like. We get them because they are successful. We get them because they work for the scammers.”

Scammers are smart. They watch the news and often craft their messages based on what’s going on around us. They use the best psychology to appeal to our worries, fears, hopes and aspirations. Hardly a day goes by for a scammer that they aren’t successful. They approach people in their teens and 20s because they can be easy prey. They approach seniors because they often have savings. Scammers approach every age group in between because they can be convinced. It is essential that people know what’s coming and have the tools to prevent becoming victims.

“An Ounce of Prevention: A Positive Approach to Scams” will be presented by Lyn Peters, Director of Communications, Financial Education & Outreach for the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions. The free online workshop is sponsored by the Pierce County Aging & Disability Resource Center. The event is free for all ages. Advance registration is required either online or by calling the ADRC at (253) 798-4600.

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