

Scam Alert Report: Government Imposter Scam Targeting Seniors and People with Disabilities

Synopsis

What's been reported?

Recently, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel issued a warning about a rise in government imposter scams targeting seniors and people with disabilities. Fraudsters, posing as representatives from the “Administration for Community Living’s (ACL) Eldercare Locator or the Disability Information & Access Line (DIAL)”, have been making calls to seniors demanding personal information like Social Security and Medicare numbers, banking details, or even payment while threatening jail time or fines. Some tactics include harassment through repeated calls. Importantly, these calls are fraudulent and are not associated with any government agency.

Expert Insights

What are the experts saying?

Attorney General Nessel emphasized the importance of skepticism towards unsolicited callers requesting personal information. She also encouraged contacting her office’s Consumer Protection Team for assistance. The Area Agency on Aging 1-B corroborated these warnings and added that these types of calls have been reported in their region, underscoring the necessity for seniors to be vigilant.

Preventative Measures

How do I stay out ahead of this one?

- **Government Agency Protocols:** Remember that no government agency will call out of the blue to ask for a Social Security number, demand payment via gift card, bitcoin, wire transfer, or threaten to suspend your Social Security number.
- **Guard Personal Information:** Never divulge your Social Security number, bank account, or Medicare number to unsolicited callers.

Preventative Measures (continued)

- **Avoid Unusual Payment Methods:** Do not use gift cards or wire transfers for payments to unknown individuals.
- **Email Caution:** Be wary of opening attachments or links from unknown sources.
- **Registration:** Join the National Do Not Call Registry to reduce the number of unsolicited calls.
- **Don't Pick Up:** Don't answer calls from unfamiliar numbers. If it's important, they will leave a message.
- **Slow Down:** Be wary of urgent requests or requests with unusual forms of payment (wire transfers or gift cards). This is a big red flag!

Strike-Back Methods

What if I might be in the middle of this scam?

1. **End Suspicious Calls:** If you have any doubts about the caller, terminate the call immediately.
2. **Report Scams:** Victims of this scam should contact their state's Attorney General's Consumer Protection Team or the Department of Justice's National Elder Fraud Hotline to report the incident and seek guidance

**Contact the Department of Justice
National Elder Fraud Hotline at 833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311).**

Sources

- WNEM News: "AG warns of imposter scam targeting elderly, disabled" - [WNEM Report](#)
- AAA1B: "Scam Alert: 'Eldercare' Callers Impersonating Administration for Community Living" - [AAA1B Scam Alert](#)