

Don't Get Tricked: How to Avoid Text Message and Phone Call Scams

By Safe Clickers

Scammers are no longer just in your email — now they're showing up on your cell phone through fake texts and phone calls. These messages often look urgent, friendly, or even official, but they're really traps designed to steal your information or money. Here's how to protect yourself and your loved ones.


What Are SMS (Text) Scams?

These are fake text messages that pretend to be from:

- Banks
- Delivery companies (like UPS or FedEx)
- Government agencies
- Tech support
- Family members asking for help or gift cards

They usually say things like:

- "Your package is held. Click here to reschedule delivery."
- "Unusual login detected. Tap here to secure your account."
- "Hi Grandma, I lost my phone. Can you send me money?"

 Never click on links in messages from numbers you don't recognize.


Phone Call Scams: What to Watch For

Scammers can call pretending to be:

- Microsoft or Apple tech support
- Medicare or Social Security
- Police or IRS
- A loved one in trouble
- Your bank or credit card company

They may say:

- "We've detected a virus on your computer."
- "You owe taxes and must pay now or you'll be arrested."
- "We need to verify your identity. What's your Social Security number?"

 Real companies will never ask for personal info like that over the phone.

5 Quick Rules to Stay Safe

- ✓ Don't respond to unknown texts — even to say 'STOP'
- ✓ Don't click on links in text messages unless you're 100% sure
- ✓ Don't give out personal info (passwords, SSN, account numbers) over the phone
- ✓ Hang up if the caller makes you feel pressured, scared, or confused
- ✓ Call the company back using the official number on their website

Extra Tip: Use Built-In Phone Protection


Block unknown or scam calls using your smartphone's settings

Report scam texts to your phone carrier by forwarding them to 7726 (which spells "SPAM")

Safe Clickers Can Help

If you're not sure whether a message or call is real, ask us! We provide:

- Scam message reviews
- Phone safety tune-ups
- Peace of mind for seniors and their families

 Book a Safety Check Session or contact us for quick help.