SMARTER MONEY LIFE
powered by FORUM Credit Union

PROTECTING PARENTS FROM SCAMS



Protecting your parents from scams doesn't have to be complicated – it starts with awareness, simple safeguards, and open conversations. Scammers rely on urgency and confusion, but a few smart habits can help your family stay one step ahead. Here are the key steps to protect the people who've always looked out for you.

START THE CONVERSATION

- Talk openly about common scams (no shame, no judgment)
- Agree: "We'll double-check anything involving money"

LOCK DOWN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

- Enable **two-factor authentication** on all accounts
- Use **strong, unique passwords** (consider a password manager)
- Set up **account alerts** (transactions, logins, changes)

WATCH FOR RED FLAGS

- Urgent language: "Act now," "Final notice"
- Requests for **gift cards, wire transfers, or crypto**
- Unexpected calls claiming to be banks, IRS, Medicare, etc.

VERIFY EVERYTHING

- Hang up and call back using official numbers
- Don't click unknown links or attachments
- Never give out PINs, passwords, or one-time codes

LIMIT EXPOSURE

- Reduce personal info on social media
- Opt out of unnecessary data-sharing lists
- Shred sensitive mail

CREATE A SAFETY NET

- Add a **trusted contact** to financial accounts
- Review statements together monthly
- Consider setting **transaction limits**

At the end of the day, protecting your parents doesn't mean taking over – it means partnering with them. A few small steps, a few simple conversations. . . can prevent a really big problem down the road.

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