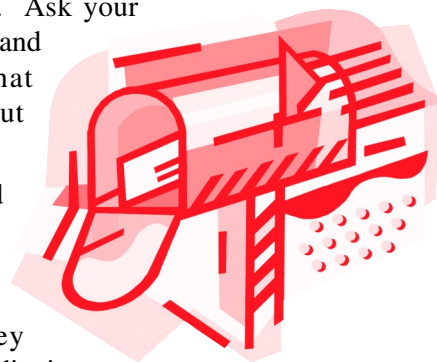


It's not always easy to spot con artists.

They're smart, extremely persuasive, and aggressive. They invade your home through the telephone, computer, and the mail; advertise in well-known newspapers and magazines; and come to your door. They're well mannered, friendly, and helpful—at first. Most people think they're too smart to fall for a scam. But con artists rob all kinds of people—from investment counselors and doctors to teenagers and senior citizens—of billions of dollars every year. One easy rule to remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

You can protect yourself

- Never give a caller your credit card, phone card, Social Security number, or bank account number over the phone. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- Beware of 900 numbers. Remember, if you call a 900 number to claim a "prize," you end up paying for the call. Make sure you understand all charges before making the call.
- Take your time and shop around. Don't let an aggressive con artist pressure you into making a decision. Demand information in writing by mail. Get a second opinion. Ask your family, friends, and neighbors what they think about certain offers.
- Stay informed about current scams in your area. Contact your attorney general's office, district attorney's office, the Better Business Bureau, or consumer affairs office for more information.
- Remember, you have the right, the ability, and the power to say NO! If the caller on the other end of the phone makes you wary, be assertive and end the conversation. Cons know that the longer they keep you on the phone, the higher their chance of success. They often prey on the trusting, polite nature of many people or on their excitement over being told they're getting



a prize or bargain. By saying no and hanging up the phone, you can prevent a crime from taking place.

Be a wise consumer

- Look closely at offers that come in the mail. Con artists often use official-looking forms and language and bold graphics to lure victims. If you receive items in the mail that you didn't order, you are under no obligation to pay for them. You are free to throw them out, return them, or keep them.
- Beware of low cost home repair work that should reasonably be much more expensive. The con artist may do only part of the work, use shoddy materials and untrained workers, or simply take your deposit and never return. Never pay with cash. Never accept offers from drive-up workers who "just happen" to be in the neighborhood. If they're reliable, they'll come back after you check them out.

If someone rips you off

- Report con games to the police, your city or state consumer protection office, district attorney's office, or a consumer advocacy group. Don't be embarrassed. Some very, very astute people have been taken in by these pros!
- Call the National Fraud Information Center at 800-876-7060, or visit their Web site at www.fraud.org for current fraud alerts.

Some typical cons targeted at older people

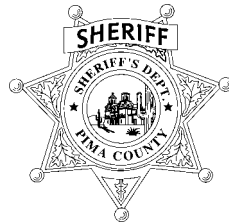
Many cons choose to victimize older people. Con artists devise complex offers that confuse their targets and eventually persuade them to take up these offers.

Don't let this happen to you

- The phone rings and the caller tells you that you've won a new car. In order to claim the prize you need to mail a check to cover the taxes and delivery of the car. Weeks later, the phone rings again. You learn that the original prize company has gone out of business. But the caller tells you not to worry because his/her company has purchased the assets of the defunct company. All you need to do now is send another check to the new company to cover the costs of the legal transactions and for immediate delivery of the car. The check gets mailed, but the prize never arrives.
- A mail offer, newspaper, magazine, or television ad catches your eye. It promises a quick cure for cancer, arthritis, memory loss, back pain, or other ailments. "It's an absolute miracle," one testimony reads. "I feel a million times better." You mail your check for a six-week supply of this miracle cure and wind up with a jar of Vitamin C, placebos, or even worse, pills or tonics that have not been medically tested and could worsen your condition or react negatively with the prescription medication you regularly take.

Contact us

For more information on Fraud and other Crime Prevention issues, contact the Pima County Sheriff's Department's Community Resources Team at (520) 741-4615. We'll be happy to talk to you about educational materials, brochures, and safety presentations. Call today.



PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff of Pima County

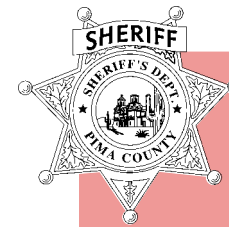
Community Resources Team
1750 E. Benson Highway
Tucson, Arizona 85714
(520) 741-4615
(520) 741-4902 fax
www.pimasheriff.org



Crime Prevention Tips From
National Crime Prevention Council
1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20006-3817
www.weprevent.org

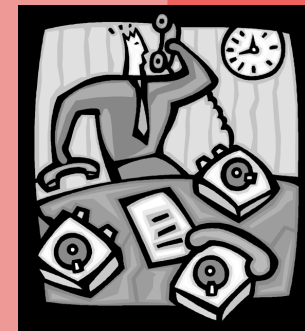


Pima County Board of Supervisors: Sharon Bronson, Chair,
District 3; Ann Day, District 1; Ramón Valadez, District 2;
Raymond J. Carroll, District 4; Richard Elías, District 5
Pima County Administrator: C.H. Huckelberry



Pima County
Sheriff's Department

Use Common Sense to Spot a Con



Sheriff Clarence W. Dupnik
1750 E. Benson Highway
Tucson, Arizona 85714