


Scams Old and New: Red Flags and Thoughtful Replies





Scammers will also try to trick you into sending them money. Some common scams to be on the lookout for:


Fraudster Strategy


Your Response


 Emails or sends text message supposedly from a large company (such as Amazon, Netflix, Apple, or your electric company) indicating that your account is past-due and, to avoid having service cut off for non-payment, you must send funds via Zelle, Cash app, or Venmo.


Zelle, Cash App, and Venmo are person-to-person payment services. Large companies (utilities, Amazon, Netflix) do not generally accept these forms of payment. Request for these types of payments is a **Red Flag** of fraud. 

 Offers products for sale on a social media marketplace and demands payment before you receive the product or service.

Zelle, and other person-to-person payments generally are immediate and non-refundable. These payment services are intended to send money to friends, family and others you know and trust. You should not use these services to send money to someone you do not know or trust. 

 Asks you to send funds with Zelle in exchange for signing over a check, gift card, or cash card of a higher value to you – offering you the chance to keep the difference.

This is a new take on an old trick. Even if you do receive the check or gift card, its likely stolen, forged or lacking the promised value. If it is too good to be true – It is. 

 Asks you to send money to a new acquaintance to help them - perhaps come to visit you, or to pay for rent, a medical procedure, or other expense.

These scams play on your willingness to help; Be skeptical of any money request from someone you just met – whether in real life or virtually. 