

## Common Scams

### Elder Fraud

Strangers, caregivers, or sometimes even close family members, pretend to act in the best interest of an older adult's finances but actually use those funds for their own personal benefit. Only a small fraction of incidents are reported as the elderly victim does not want to appear as someone who is easily manipulated in fear that they may be put in a nursing home or have their current way of life taken away from them.

### Sweetheart Scam

Dating websites can sometimes have fraudsters preying on people who are lonely and in need of companionship. They will say and do anything over chat to earn the person's trust and make themselves out to be the ideal partner. Eventually, they will say they want to meet but that they live far away, are having car troubles, or have other excuses, and that they need money to afford the trip to meet up. They will keep this up for as long as possible in hopes of extorting the victim for as much money as possible.

### Grandparent Scam

Scammers will reach out, usually by phone, pretending to be a grandchild in trouble and needing money to get out of the situation they are in. Claims can range from being stuck in a foreign country, being put in jail, or some other kind of trouble. They will ask for money to be sent right away to get them out of their situation. The scammer pretending to be a grandchild will beg for secrecy as they do not want their parents to find out.

### Overpayment Scam

A person will reach out about a service that is being offered or an item being sold online. They will ask to pay by check or money order, oftentimes in an amount larger than what was initially requested for the item. They will say they already wrote the check out, so it's

too late to change the amount and request that the check be deposited anyway and to just send them back the difference between the total of the check and what the service or item cost.

The whole time, the check or money order is fraudulent, and when the bank discovers that days later, the victim could be left paying the amount wired to the scammer for the difference owed, and any product that was shipped to the scammer.

### Sweepstakes Scam

Scammers try to get money or personal information by saying someone won or qualified for a sweepstakes, lottery, or contest. They claim that to get the prize, one has to pay a fee to collect it or for it to be sent. Some of these scams require the victim to provide personal information to claim the winnings. These scams may arrive by mail, email, phone, or text.

### Pay Yourself Scam

It starts with a text message that looks like a fraud alert from your bank. If you respond, you'll receive a call from a number that appears to be your bank. The scammer claims to work at the bank and offers to stop the fraud by having you send yourself money with Zelle®. They ask for a security code that was sent to you so they can identify you, and authorize the payment to yourself. If you give the scammer the security code, they can now link their bank account to your phone number or email address. Now the money you thought you were sending to yourself is sent directly to their bank account.

**If someone calls and asks for information such as your online or mobile banking User ID and password, PINs, or to confirm a security code, hang up and call the number on the back of your debit card or the number listed at [RocklandTrust.com](https://www.rocklandtrust.com).**