



**SCAM  
ALERT!**

# *Scams Target Older Americans*

The number of elderly victims impacted by fraud has risen at an alarming rate. Many of these member-targeted scams involve fraudulent wire transfers, specifically targeting elderly members. Several reasons are attributed to why elder financial abuse or exploitation continues:

- Increased social media use by older Americans. Only communicate with people you know.
- Telephone scammers are targeting landlines, cell phones and have the ability to mask caller ID.

Elder financial abuse is a growing issue for credit unions and while there is legislation to protect the elderly, CWCU employees are often in the position to detect and protect our elderly members from financial exploitation. New federal and state laws prompt FIs to take an active role in trying to address fraud and scams that target older members. CWCU is sharing these important mitigation tips with you our members:

- Never give control of your computer to anyone who contacts you. If you receive a call about a computer problem, hang up. If you suspect something is wrong with your computer or believe the scammer obtained access to it, bring it to a reputable company for a malware check.
- Don't trust phone numbers provided in an email, voicemail, caller ID, or popup ad. If you want to call the company, use the customer service number on their official website.
- If you are asked, do not wire money or purchase gift cards from a recent deposit or over payment and discuss the situation with our member service department, a trusted friend, or family member. Be truthful about the situation since many scammers direct you to lie about why you're sending money.

We, as a credit union, take this matter very seriously and want to protect our members in any possible way that we can.