

Medical Fraud

Fake laboratory tests, miracle cures, and mail order clinics, etc . . . are other ways to defraud you. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a miracle cure. Legitimate doctors and hospitals do not advertise through the mail.

If you suffer from a particular ailment, seek the advice and services of qualified medical practitioners. You should report phony medical treatment being sold through the mail to your physician, local medical authorities or police.

Business Opportunities

Most often, you are contacted by telephone or through a newspaper advertisement. The ads promise business opportunities and work-at-home schemes, which promise high profits after you send a substantial investment or registration fee.

Prevention Tip

A legitimate business would not require an investment or registration fee. Contact the Ministry of Consumer and Business Affairs or the Better Business Bureau.

Area Code Scam

Individuals receive a message telling them to call a phone number with an 809, 284, 649, or 876 area code in order to collect a prize, find out information about a sick relative, etc. The caller assumes the number is a valid Canadian area code; however, the caller is actually connected to a phone number outside of the country, and charged international call rates. Unfortunately, consumers are unaware that they have been charged the exorbitant rates until they receive their bill.

Prevention Tips

- Return calls to familiar numbers only that contain recognizable area codes. You may call your phone service provider to check the area code location.
- Carefully read your telephone bill. Make sure that you only receive charges only from your service provider of choice and have authorized additional fees invoiced.

What should I do if I think I have been scammed?

- All fraud and scams should be reported, even if you are embarrassed or feel the amount of money is too small to worry about. While you might not be able to get your money back, you can help stop the con artist from scamming other people.
- Report all fraud and scams to your local police, or call Phone Busters at 1-888-495-8501.

Information taken from: The online Seniors Guidebook to Safety and Security (<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/ccaps-spcca/seniors-aines-eng.htm>)