

# Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost warns of **SCAMS** **TARGETING** **OHIOANS**



## **Computer Repair Scams**

An “employee” of a computer company contacts you claiming your computer has a virus and offers to “fix the problem.” The person asks for access to your computer, which allows the scammer to install malicious software designed to scan your computer for personal information or to lock your computer so that you cannot use it until you pay a “ransom” to unlock it.

## **Fake Check Scams**

Someone sends you a check or money order and asks you to deposit it in your account and wire-transfer back the money, minus a nice bonus for you – a “thank you” for helping. Regardless of the pitch, the result is the same: The check or money order you received is counterfeit; it will be returned to your bank unpaid, and the full amount will be deducted from your account.

## **Phishing and Spoofing**

Scammers use clever emails, websites, phone calls and text messages to “phish” for information by posing as a legitimate business. Never give personal information to someone who contacts you unexpectedly, even if they say they are from a trusted business, such as your bank. Scammers can use “spoofing” to disguise the phone number that appears on your caller ID to make their ploys seem more legitimate.

## **Romance Scams**

A con artist meets a victim online or over the phone and claims to be temporarily located overseas — perhaps due to a military assignment or mission trip. After developing a relationship, the scammer eventually asks the victim to send money to pay for airfare, medical expenses or military fees. In reality, there was never “true love,” and any money sent will be lost.

## **Home Improvement Scams**

Door-to-door contactors offer to repair your roof, pave your driveway or trim your trees for a great price. After you pay, the contractor disappears after doing a poor job or no work at all. Never pay in full upfront. If you are solicited at your home, you have three days to cancel the contract, and the work should not begin within that period.

## **Grandparent Scam**

A con artist poses as your grandchild, claims to be in trouble and asks you to send money via wire transfer or prepaid card. If you’re suspicious, ask a question only a family member would know how to answer; also, call your son or daughter to confirm the claim.

## **Sweepstakes Scams**

Someone falsely claims that you have won the lottery or a contest that you never entered. All you need to do to collect the winnings is prepay a fee or a tax. However, your winnings will never arrive because the lottery or contest is fake. Legitimate sweepstakes are free and require no upfront payment.

## **Phony Charities**

Scammers invent fake charities. To verify the legitimacy of a charitable group before making a donation, call the Ohio Attorney General’s Help Center at **800-282-0515**.



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

For more information or assistance, visit [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov) or call **800-282-0515**.

