VA Privacy in Action Speaker Series Event

IDENTITY THEFT SCAMS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Event Resource Guide

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Privacy Service, thank you for attending the "Identity Theft Scams and How to Avoid Them" Speaker Series event on February 24, 2021. We hope you found the information presented to be insightful, meaningful, and thought provoking. Below is a list of helpful resources that may assist you in your daily efforts to protect Veterans' and their families, as well as consumers' privacy as a whole.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Contact VA Privacy Service with Questions: VAPrivacyCommunications@va.gov

VA Identity Theft Help Line: 1-855-578-5492 | Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET https://www.va.gov/IDENTITYTHEFT/

New Year, Same Scams: Tips and Tricks from AARP to Fight Fraud in 2021: https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/83191/new-year-same-scams-tips-tricks-aarp-fight-fraud-2021/

Protecting Yourself Against Identity Theft and Fraud: https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/financial-literacy/ID-theft-fraud.pdf

About Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (Community Care): https://www.va.gov/communityCare/about_us/POI/poi_fwa.asp

Fraud Avoidance for Veterans: https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/bwn-fraud-avoidance.pdf

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Veterans and Imposter Scams: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/11/veterans-and-imposter-scams-0?utm_source=govdelivery

Veterans, Servicemembers, and Fraud: By the Numbers: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/11/veterans-servicemembers-and-fraud-numbers

Stop Veteran Charity Scams (Video): https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/media/video-0163-stop-veteran-charity-scams-psa

Avoiding Scams and Rip-Offs: https://www.ftc.gov/faq/consumer-protection/avoiding-scams-rip-offs

FTC Imposter Scams: https://www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/office-inspector-general/ftc-imposter-scams

Fraud Avoidance for Veterans Veterans and their benefits are the targets of many types of fraud, to include mail, telephone, and online fraud. VA is actively working to prevent these incidents, but you are the best line of defense against this criminal activity. Here are some tips about being contacted reg Re cautious of telephone numbers If you receive correspondence from VA concerning a claim, and you don't on your caller ID. Scammers can change the telephone number (spoofing) to make a call appear to remember filing a claim come from a diffferent person or place ontact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000 to confirm details. VA will never charge you for processing a claim or request a processing fee prior to releasing benefit payments. When in doubt, hang up and call VA directly at 1-800-827-1000, or call your Power of Attorney representative (DAV, VFW, etc). VA will never ask for your personal information via email. Thi includes verification of your SSN, address, and/or bank information. VA only addresses personal information via mailed letters. If you receive an email or letter from VA notifying you that your direct deposit information was updated, or VA may check in with you by phone, that your eBenefits account information was updated, and you don't remember doing so nsure about any call, email, or text, onfirm details with VA directly at 1-800-827-1000. immediately contact VA at 1-800-827-1000. Do not ignore the email or letter. It could be your first sign that your information has been compromised. VA does not threaten claimants with jail or lawsuits. U.S. Department of Veterans Affair









Avoiding and Reporting Scams: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts

FTC information:

- Consumer Alerts: https://www.ftc.gov/stay-connected
- Report Scams or Questionable Claims: https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/

U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)

Most Common Scams Targeting Veterans, by State: https://www.uspis.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/most-common-scams-targeting-veterans-by-state-uspis.pdf

Operation Protect Veterans: https://www.uspis.gov/veterans/ Reporting a scam: https://www.uspis.gov/ or call 877-876-2455

Email for free brochures: ismediainquiries@uspis.gov

USPIS information:

Website: https://www.uspis.gov/
Facebook: @Postalinspectors
Instagram: @postalinspectors

• YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/USPISpressroom

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

Fraud Prevention Resources: https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/resources-for-older-adults/financial-education-placemats/

Aid and Attendance Benefit Scams: https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/helping-prevent-scams-targeted-veterans/

Protect Your Identity: What Older Adults Should Know: https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_identity_protection_guide.pdf

Fake Charity Scam Information for Meal Service Providers: https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb charity-scams-handout.pdf

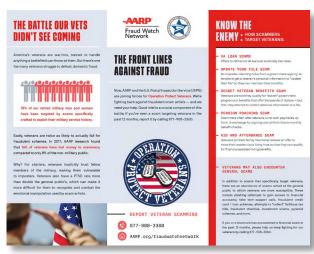
AARP

Scams Targeting Veterans: https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/ info-2019/veterans.html

Veterans, Military Spouses Top Targets of Employment Scams: https://www.aarp.org/home-family/voices/veterans/info-2020/military-families-employment-scams.html

A Crackdown on Fake Charities Exploiting Veterans: https://www.aarp.org/podcasts/take-on-today-info-2018/take-on-today-podcast-episode-20.html







Other Resources

Registering a telephone number with the National Do Not Call registery: https://www.donotcall.gov/

Unemployment Benefits Finder: https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/UnemploymentBenefits/Find-Unemployment-Powerfactures

Benefits.aspx?newsearch=true

Report Identity Theft: https://www.identitytheft.gov/





