



Avoiding Scams During the COVID-19 Outbreak

Watch out for these scams:

• Misleading consumer products

- o There are no cures or vaccines for COVID 19
Companies are selling products that say they can cure or prevent people from becoming infected with the coronavirus.
- o For COVID 19 treatment, contact your doctor or the Ohio Department of Health 1-833-427-5634.

• Identity Theft Scams

- o The stimulus checks from the Federal Treasury will come directly from the US Government.
- o If you get a call or e-mail from a company, agency or non-profit wanting to help you get the stimulus check, it is a scam. *Do not provide information to them such as your name, address and/or date of birth.*

• Price gauging

- o When someone sells things like toilet paper or hand sanitizer for an amount that is a lot more than the normal price
- o Before purchasing an item from an individual or group because it is out of stock, you should check if the group is real – ask for a web address

• Charity scams

- o Fake programs or services collecting money for a fake cause
Ask for a web address to be able to check out the organization before donating
- o There are no government programs asking you to obtain a money gram or gift card to obtain the benefit.
- o Do not provide your bank information to anyone offering you free money

Resources:

For more information regarding the state's response to COVID-19 visit the governor's website at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For information regarding federal responses to the COVID-19, please visit the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

For additional information from legal aid related to COVID-19, visit columbuslegalaid.org and seols.org.

The Legal Aid Society of Columbus and Southeastern Ohio Legal Services provide free legal services for low-income Ohioans and seniors.

Call for an intake at 614.241.2001 (Central Ohio),
1-888-301-2411 (Delaware, Marion, Morrow and Union counties)
or 800.686.3669 (Southeastern Ohio).

Legal Aid does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

