



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SOLANO**

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PRESS RELEASE

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY ISSUES WARNING OF COVID-19 SCAMS

District Attorney Krishna Abrams hereby issues an alert to all Solano County residents regarding the potential rise in consumer scams in the wake of the statewide public health emergency declaration. Federal and local law enforcement agencies across the country are reporting an increase in fraudulent activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. District Attorney Abrams reminds all residents that bad actors may seek to take advantage of the current emergency situation and asks all consumers to be on the lookout for the following scams:

FRAUDULENT CURES/TEST KITS – There is currently no vaccine or “home-testing kit” approved by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for COVID-19 and all testing must currently be done through a medical professional. Consumers should be wary of, and report, products offered for sale claiming to treat, prevent, cure, test for and/or vaccinate against COVID-19.

FRAUDULENT SUPPLIERS – Previously unknown online retailers may be posing as legitimate suppliers of hard-to-find products such as: face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, toilet paper, paper towels, and/or other household goods. Such products should be approached with caution. Only order from reputable and established companies to avoid having payments collected for orders that are never delivered.

SCAMMERS POSING AS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES – Consumers may be contacted by individuals, via telephone, text message, email and/or social media, claiming to be from reputable federal, state, or local public health agencies (such as the Centers for Disease Control, National Institute of Health, Office of Emergency Services and/or County Public Health Officer). An attempt may then be made to obtain personal information by asking victims to “verify” social security numbers, bank account information, personal identification numbers (PIN), or other sensitive personal information. Consumers should **never open attachments or links in emails** from senders they do not recognize and **never give out sensitive personal information over the telephone**, text message, email, and/or social media.

FEDERAL STIMULUS RELIEF FRAUD – With the recent passage of federal legislation to provide financial relief to millions of Americans, consumers can expect to be targeted with phone calls, text messages, emails and social media messages looking to obtain social security numbers, bank account information, personal identification numbers (PIN), or other personal financial information under the guise of verifying, quantifying and/or expediting the receipt of federal stimulus relief. Consumers should **never open attachments** or links in emails from senders they do not recognize, and **never give out sensitive financial information** over the telephone, text message, email, and/or social media.

FRAUDULENT CHARITIES – Scammers are likely looking to take advantage of the public’s generosity during the pandemic by either creating false charitable organizations or soliciting donations in the name of an organization similar to a reputable and established charitable organization. Just because an organization has a website that may seem legitimate, or provides an email and/or phone number, does not guarantee that the charity is authentic. Only donate to established and trusted organizations to assure your donation makes it to those truly in need.

SOLANO COUNTY CONSUMER ALERT RE: COVID-19 SCAMS

APRIL 3, 2020

PAGE 2

Fraudulently capitalizing on the public's fears during a public health emergency hurts our community as a whole and damages the public's trust in our commercial institutions and charitable organizations. The Solano County District Attorney's Office will investigate and prosecute, to the fullest extent of the law, any individuals or entities who seek to take advantage of this pandemic. Victims of COVID-19 related scams, or those with information regarding said scams, may file a complaint with the Consumer and Environmental Crimes Unit through the following methods:

Online: www.solanoda.com

By Telephone: (707) 784-6859*

By Email: dacepu@solanocounty.com

** please leave a detailed message providing your name, phone number, mailing address, and nature of your complaint.*