

# Please Beware!

Unfortunately, scams are always living among us. The perpetrators prey on our hearts and good nature.

Recently we've seen an uptick in scams.

## **Microsoft:**

Phone calls claiming to be from Microsoft, Pop-ups or Messages appearing on your PC or other internet enabled devices.

Microsoft will never reach out to you to provide unsolicited PC or technical support!

Hang up the phone and/or close the window on your PC.

## **On-line romance:**

It goes something like this: You post a dating profile and up pops a promising match — good-looking, smart, funny and personable. This potential mate claims to live in another part of the country or to be abroad for business or a military deployment. But he or she seems smitten and eager to get to know you better, and suggests you move your relationship to a private channel like email or a chat app.

Over weeks or months, you feel yourself growing closer. You make plans to meet in person, but for your new love something always comes up. Then you get an urgent request. There's an emergency (a medical problem, perhaps, or a business crisis), and your online companion needs you to wire money quickly. He or she will promise to pay it back, but that will never happen. Instead, the scammer will keep asking for more until you finally realize you've been had or your money is gone.

## **Lottery scams**

You will receive notification that you have won a lot of money or a fantastic prize in a competition, lottery or sweepstakes. The contact may come by mail, telephone, email, text message or social media.

If you haven't entered a lottery or competition, you can't win it.

If you are asked to send money, wire money, purchase gift cards, or provide your banking account information run, do not walk away!

Legitimate lotteries do not require you to pay any fee to collect winnings.

***Please call us if you experience or are exposed to any scams or anything unusual or suspicious. We are here to help you!***