



Have You Been Scammed?

Here's what your SRES® designee recommends you do next:

Dos and Don'ts After a Scam

DO

Report the fraud

Let people who can help you know about the scam. Reporting the deception can stop more individuals from being victimized. Start by contacting your bank and the **Federal Trade Commission** at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/>. You may also want to report losses to local police or your **State Consumer Protection Office** at <https://www.usa.gov/state-consumer>.

Work with your bank to recover lost funds

Contact your financial service provider to let them know what happened. Although there is no guarantee, they are often able to help recover your funds if you get in touch quickly.

Change passwords and ignore unknown calls

After a scam, change your passwords, replace any compromised credit cards, and block calls from unknown numbers to avoid getting scammed again.

DON'T

Be embarrassed

Fraudsters are convincing, and millions of people fall victim to their tactics every year. Although it is unsettling to be taken in by a scam, don't let those uncomfortable feelings stop you from taking action.

Stay silent

Talking to family and friends that you trust about your experience can help you move on. Remember—they encounter scams too. Sharing your story can raise awareness and keep your loved ones safe.

Stop using all devices

Getting scammed can shake you up, but don't let it shut you down. Devices are still safe and useful if you take precautions.

In the United States, several government agencies investigate complaints. Report your experience to one of the following:

Medicare-related fraud: U.S. Department of Health
800-HHS-TIPS • (800-447-8477) • oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud

IRS impersonators: Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA).
800-366-4484 • treasury.gov/tigta/reportcrime_misconduct.shtml

Social Security scams: Social Security Administration
1-800-269-0271 • <https://oig.ssa.gov/>

General scams: The Federal Trade Commission
877-FTC-HELP (382-4357) • ftccomplaintassistant.gov

Count on an SRES® to guide you through the process of buying or selling your home, making the transaction less stressful and more successful.

The Seniors Real Estate Specialist® (SRES®) designation is awarded by the SRES® Council, a subsidiary of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR).

To learn more about SRES® and access various consumer resources, please visit seniorsresource.realtor.

