



# SCAMMER SCORECARD

## September 2020

### September in Review

Complaints related to elder fraud were at their highest of the year in September. Our office received 218 complaints about scams and fraud targeting older North Carolinians, and most of the money lost in these complaints was lost through sweepstakes scams. Be skeptical of calls or messages telling you you've won a lottery or are a finalist for a sweepstakes. Never send money to anyone who says you've won a prize. Because mailing and call lists are often sold to other solicitors, getting lots of lottery calls or sweepstakes mailings can be a sign that you may already be a victim. Learn more about sweepstakes scams [here](#) and report them to our office at [ncdoj.gov/complaint](http://ncdoj.gov/complaint) or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

In 2020, North Carolinians have filed 387,561 fraud reports with the FTC, and more than 20 percent have been related to online shopping. Online shopping can be helpful as we continue to respond to the pandemic, but be careful of the sellers you buy from. Try to buy from established sites and sellers, verify that the website is legitimate, and ask questions about refunds and shipping and handling fees. Get more tips [here](#).



# 218

## Elder Fraud Complaints

# \$240,428

## Lost



# 941

2020 Total Count: 6,786

### Robocall Reports

If you receive robocalls, report them to our Robocall Report Task Force at [ncdoj.gov/norobo](http://ncdoj.gov/norobo) or at 1-844-8-NO-ROBO. Robocallers often rely on fear and threats as tactics - don't give in to the pressure to share your personal/financial information.



### Be on the lookout for...

#### Small business scams

North Carolinians have received scam calls from scammers impersonating the NC Farm Bureau about insurance debts and from the Small Business Administration about pandemic loans. If you're contacted by someone claiming a corporate or government representative, take time to verify their legitimacy. Report scams to our office's Consumer Protection Division at [ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint](http://ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint) or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

### Take Action to Get Your Federal Recovery Payments

An estimated 9 million people have not yet claimed their COVID-19 economic impact payments from the federal government, and must do so before Nov. 21.

If you didn't file federal tax returns in 2018 or 2019 and don't receive Social Security or other federal benefits, you may be eligible for these payments. Learn more and submit your information to the IRS [here](#).



If you or a loved one has been the victim of a scam,  
report it to our office:

[ncdoj.gov/complaint](http://ncdoj.gov/complaint) or **1-877-5-NO-SCAM**