



## Crime Tips to Prevent Telephone Scams

Every year, thousands of people lose money to telephone scams — from a few dollars to their life savings. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money. Some seem very friendly — calling you by your first name, making small talk, and asking about your family. They may claim to work for a company you trust, or they may send mail or place ads to convince you to call them. If you get a call from someone you don't know who is trying to sell you something you hadn't planned to buy, say "No thanks." And, if they pressure you about giving up personal information — like your credit card or Social Security number — it's likely a scam, simply hang up.

Here are a few red flags to help you spot telemarketing scams. If you hear a line that sounds like this simply hang up:

- You've been specially selected (for this offer).
- You'll get a free bonus if you buy our product.
- You've won one of five valuable prizes.
- You've won big money in a foreign lottery.
- This investment is low risk and provides a higher return than you can get anywhere else.
- You have to make up your mind right away.
- You trust me, right?
- You don't need to check our company with anyone.
- We'll just put the shipping and handling charges on your credit card.
- The IRS will never call and demand payment
- Law Enforcement will never call and demand payment for any reason
- If they are calling on behalf of a family member, don't give out any information to the caller, call the relative to verify they are in need of help

There are times the caller will be very aggressive and use scare tactics to persuade you to give information to them. If you encounter this call, hang up and call the police at 303-741-5960.