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# Protecting Yourself Online: Safeguarding Against Scams

At Wolfgang Capital, we understand that navigating the online world can be overwhelming, especially if being tech-savvy isn't your strong suit. In today's digital age, where online transactions and interactions have become increasingly prevalent, it is crucial to prioritize your online security. In this newsletter, we hope to provide you with valuable insights and effective strategies to help you steer clear of online scams. Our goal is to empower you with the expertise needed to identify red flags, adopt preventative measures, and confidently navigate the virtual landscape.

## Basic Online Safety Practices

### Keep Personal Information Private

Be cautious about sharing personal information, such as your full name, address, phone number, or financial details, online. Legitimate organizations will not ask for this information via email or unsolicited calls.

### Use Strong and Unique Passwords

Create strong, unique passwords for your online accounts and change them regularly. Avoid using easily guessable information, such as your birthdate or the word "password."

### Beware of Suspicious Emails

Be cautious when opening emails from unfamiliar sources, especially those requesting personal information or offering unexpected prizes or rewards. Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading attachments. Look at the sender's email address very closely. If a scammer is impersonating a company, they may be sending from an address that is very similar to the company but not spelled exactly the same or not coming from a ".com" address.

## Install Security Software

Protect your devices with reputable antivirus and antimalware software. Keep your operating system, applications, and security software up to date to ensure the latest protection against online threats.

## How to Avoid Common Scams

### Phishing Scams

- *Example:* You receive an email or message appearing to be from your bank, requesting your login credentials.
- *Solution:* Do not click on any links or provide personal information. Instead, independently contact your bank using their official website or phone number to verify the request.

### Tech Support Scams

- *Example:* You receive a phone call from someone claiming to be a tech support representative, insisting that your computer has a virus.
- *Solution:* Hang up and do not provide any personal or financial information. Legitimate tech support services will not proactively call you.

### Investment Scams

- *Example:* You receive unsolicited investment opportunities promising high returns with low risk.
- *Solution:* Be skeptical of unsolicited investment offers. Always consult with your trusted financial advisor before making any investment decisions.

### Lottery Scam

- *Example:* You receive an email (or letter) notifying you that you have won a large sum of money in a lottery you never entered.



## About The Wolfgang Team Family Owned & Operated

We are an independent RIA and Fiduciary Firm serving Southern California.

We do not take our clients' financial well-being lightly and we look at the whole picture when it comes to retirement planning (not just investing).

The Whole Picture Retirement Plan® is our trademarked process that interprets the puzzle pieces of your financial life and connects them to form a dynamic retirement portrait that can adapt with grace as your life unfolds.

We plan for each of the five pillars of your financial life: income, investments, taxes, healthcare, and legacy. Retirement is not about your portfolio size; it's about having a comprehensive plan that carries you through life with tireless vigilance.

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## Quote of the Month

“

Who is going to  
believe a con artist?  
Everyone, if they  
are good.

-Andy Griffith



## Scam Protection Continued



- **Solution:** Be cautious of unsolicited lottery notifications. Legitimate lotteries will not require you to pay any fees or provide personal information to claim your winnings. Never send money or disclose sensitive information in response to such claims. Verify the legitimacy of the lottery by contacting official lottery organizations directly.

## Resources for Online Safety

## Government Agencies

- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC): [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA): [www.cisa.gov](http://www.cisa.gov)

## Trusted Websites

- AARP Fraud Watch Network: [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork)
- StaySafeOnline.org: [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org)

## Building a Support Network

## Community Awareness

Stay informed about common scams targeting your local community. Local law enforcement agencies or community centers may offer resources or workshops to help you stay vigilant.

## Trusted Family and Friends

Share your concerns and experiences with trusted family members and friends. They can provide support, guidance, and an additional perspective to help you make informed decisions.

## Financial Advisor Relationship

Maintain open communication with your financial advisor. They are your trusted partner in navigating financial matters and can provide guidance on potential scams or inappropriate investment opportunities. Always consult with your financial advisor to review potential investment opportunities or financial decisions before taking any action.

## Support Groups

Consider joining local or online support groups focused on online safety. There are also support groups specifically for seniors. Engaging with others who have similar experiences can provide valuable insights on current online scams and additional support.

## Closing Thoughts

We care deeply about your well-being and want to ensure your safety in the online world. By following basic online safety practices, being aware of common scams, and building a strong support network, you can protect yourself from online scams and make informed financial decisions.

Remember, you are not alone on this journey. Reach out to your trusted financial advisor, family members, and friends for support and guidance. Together, we can navigate the online world safely and confidently.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding online safety or financial matters, please do not hesitate to contact us at (951) 200-5084. As always, we are here to provide personalized guidance and support.