

Fraud Crimes

Fraud is a crime of deception. Consumers are deceived with promises of goods, services, or financial gains that never existed, were never intended to be provided, or were misrepresented. It is estimated that millions of consumers lose billions of dollars a year to a variety of fraud schemes.

It is difficult to detect a con artist because there is no typical description. No matter their appearance or manner they all share the goal of gaining your trust and then deceiving you out of your money and assets.

Victims also come from a variety of backgrounds; not all victims of fraud are uneducated, naïve, or elderly.

The Effects of Fraud

Victims of fraud not only suffer a financial loss but many develop health or emotional problems related to the victimization. In some cases, an elder's independence is lost as family and friends assume they are no longer capable of taking care of their finances and making sound decisions.



Your Financial Loss

It is important for you to collect and save all paperwork that relates to the crime. If the perpetrator is convicted you may request restitution during the court process, however, there is no guarantee that you will receive any compensation for your loss.

Common Emotional Reactions

Victims of fraud feel some of the same emotions that are felt by victims of violent crimes. As a victim of fraud you may experience varying degrees of emotional trauma including disbelief, anger or resentment toward the perpetrator, fear for your financial security, or increased concern about your safety. You may feel guilt, shame, or embarrassment and blame yourself for your situation. Additionally, you may experience isolation or indifference from family or friends. Physically you may have trouble eating or sleeping or you may feel depressed or helpless.

Remember that you are a victim. A con artist deceived you. You must not blame yourself or allow others to judge you. Some people find it helpful to join a support group or seek the services of a counseling professional.

Reporting Fraud

Many victims of fraud are reluctant to come forward because they feel that their loss is not significant or they are afraid or ashamed to tell anyone. Therefore, many victims suffer in silence.

As difficult as it may be, it is important for your well being to talk about your experience and report the crime so these con artists do not continue to victimize you or others.

The Mesa Police Department offers counseling through the Victim Assistance Unit. Please call
480-644-4075
for information on this service.

If you have questions about fraud call:
Mesa Police Department
Crime Prevention: 480-644-5014

Report Fraud

AZ Attorney General Consumer Information and Complaints:
602-542-5763
www.azag.gov



Arizona Corporation Commission
(Investment fraud)
602-542-4242
www.azinvestor.gov

Arizona Registrar of Contractors
(Unlicensed contractors/home repair fraud)
602-542-1525
www.rc.state.az.us

Federal Trade Commission
1-877-438-4338
www.ftc.gov

National Fraud Information Center
(Telemarketing or Internet fraud)
1-800-876-7060
www.fraud.org

Social Security Administration Fraud Hotline
(Social Security program fraud)
1-800-269-0271
www.ssa.gov

United States Postal Inspection Service
(Mail fraud)
1-626-405-1200
www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Remove Your Name from Lists

Do Not Call list
1-888-382-1222
www.donotcall.gov

Direct Marketing Association
(Remove name from mailing lists)
Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 643
Carmel, New York 15012-0643
www.dmaconsumers.org

Credit Counseling Services

National Foundation for Consumer Credit
1 -800-388-2227

For local credit counseling services consult the yellow pages and the Better Business Bureau.

Personal Assistance

Area Agency on Aging Senior Help Line
602-264-4357 (24 hours a day)

YOUR CASE INFORMATION:

Report #: _____

Officer: _____

Detective: _____

Phone #: _____

Victim Advocate: _____

Phone #: _____

Important Court Dates:

Information for Victims of Fraud



This information is provided by:
Mesa Police Department
Crime Prevention
www.mesaaz.gov/police

