

# OC HUMAN RELATIONS

BUILDING COMMUNITY BY FOSTERING RESPECT, RESOLVING CONFLICT AND PURSUING EQUALITY

Serving Orange County since 1991



Be Educated. Be Informed. Be Safe!  
Reduce COVID-19

## Guidance & Support

Be in the Know. Avoid Scams!

During the COVID-19 crisis, public trust in law enforcement is essential, and the community looks to police and sheriffs to maintain safety and act as an information resource. More than ever during the crisis, law enforcement is integral to the community. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has identified a number of common scams, and the steps community members can take to avoid being victimized:

- Individuals and businesses selling fake cures for COVID-19. There is no cure for COVID-19. Any medical advice should be verified with one's personal GP or local medical provider.
- Phishing emails from 'official' entities posing as the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or state health insurance agencies. To verify the information in any official-looking email, open a new webpage and access the agency website directly. Verify that the web address is correct: government agency websites will have domain names that are clear and end in .gov, .org, or .int.
- Malicious websites and apps about the virus that disable personal devices. Do not open any website address or app embedded in emails, social media, or text messages. Open your device app store and search for the app by name instead.
- Emails from 'legitimate' companies flagging fraudulent account activity. Never open any files or links in an email. If you have an account with the company, always open a new browser tab and search for the organization's official website.
- Emails or other contacts seeking donations fraudulently for illegitimate or nonexistent charitable organizations. Fraudulent organizations can collect donations via legitimate sites such as Venmo or Kickstarter. Always use a credit card for any donations and never provide bank information over the phone or online.

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## Check the Address!

An easy method to verify if an email is fraudulent is to look at the sender's email address. An email from your bank or cable provider should not have an email address like 'customerserbnoreaplythis: mailer.idcase6763@tukikc.info'.

## Be Smart About Donations!

An easy way to limit the financial damages of scammers is to have one credit card that is solely used for online purchases, donations, and travel. This credit card should not be connected to personal checking and savings accounts. Fraudulent charges on credit cards are limited to \$50 maximum for the holder, and cards can be canceled or replaced with minimum effort.

### Disclaimer:

All reasonable precautions have been taken by OC Human Relations to verify the content in this publication. There is no expressed or implied warranty of any kind. The responsibility of interpretation, comprehension and use lies solely with the reader.

## OC Human Relations

**Building community by fostering respect, resolving conflict and pursuing equality**

**Serving Orange County since 1991**

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**[www.ochumanrelations.org](http://www.ochumanrelations.org)**



## Resources for Law Enforcement

[https://www.coronavirus.gov/Report COVID-19 Fraud](https://www.coronavirus.gov/Report_COVID-19_Fraud)