Federal Trade Commission Webinar





Fighting Consumer Fraud & Identity Theft in New Jersey

March 12, 2019

TO HEAR THE WEBINAR CALL 1-800-230-1093
Access Code: 464374

Welcome!

Presenters:

- Bill Efron, FTC Northeast Regional Office
- Paul R. Rodríguez, Office of the New Jersey Attorney General
- Annmarie DeVito, New Jersey County & Municipal Consumer Affairs, CAMCA
- Melissa Companick, Better Business Bureau Serving New Jersey
- David McMillin, Legal Services of New Jersey
- Lakezia Carmichael, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Patti Poss & Ari Lazarus, FTC

Overview

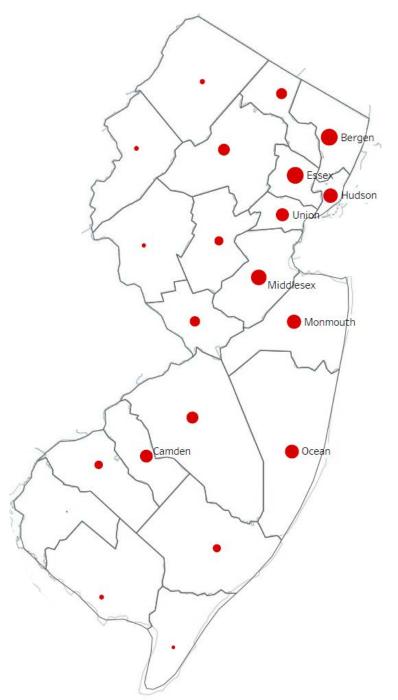
- The New Jersey landscape
- The latest scams
- Identity theft
- Working together to fight fraud and identity theft

TO HEAR THE WEBINAR CALL 1-800-230-1093

Access Code: 464374

Fraud & Identity Theft Reports in New Jersey for 2018





New Jersey Top Reports - 2018

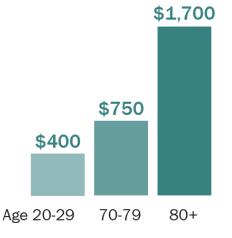
1. Imposter Scams	10,527	6. Telephone and Mobile Services	3,169
2. Debt Collection	9,854	7. Auto-related	3,042
3. Banks and Lenders	4,615	8. Prizes, Sweepstakes and Lotteries	2,162
4. Credit Bureaus, Information Furnishers and Report Users	4,199	9. Credit Cards	1,787
5. Shop-at-Home and Catalog Sales	3,570	10. Internet Services	1,545

Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2018

Younger people reported losing money to fraud more often than older people.



But when people aged 70+ had a loss, the median loss was much higher.



For Consumers Who Have Been Scammed:

- Contact the payment provider
 - Tell them the transaction was fraudulent
 - Ask for the money back

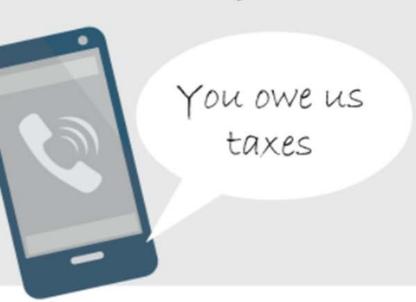
- Report the fraud to law enforcement:
 - FTC.gov/complaint or FTC.gov/queja

THE LATEST SCAMS

IRS IMPOSTER SCAMS

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the government agency that collects federal taxes.

Scammers pretend to be IRS officials to get you to send them money.





IRS Imposters

Tips for Consumers:

- Never send money to anyone who asks
- Requests to wire money or send prepaid cards or gift cards are always scams
- The IRS will never threaten to arrest or deport

www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0519-irs-imposter-scams-infographic

IRS Imposters: Twists

- Private debt collection for old IRS debts
- Get a letter first with name of debt collector & authentication number
- Always pay the IRS directly
- www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2017/04/irs-now-using-privatedebt-collectors
- Scammers make IRS deposits, then demand the money
- Follow the IRS's instructions to return money
 www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2018/03/watch-out-these-new-tax-scams

Fake Social Security Administration Calls

 Scammers claim a person's SSN has been suspended because of suspicious activity, or it's been involved in a crime.

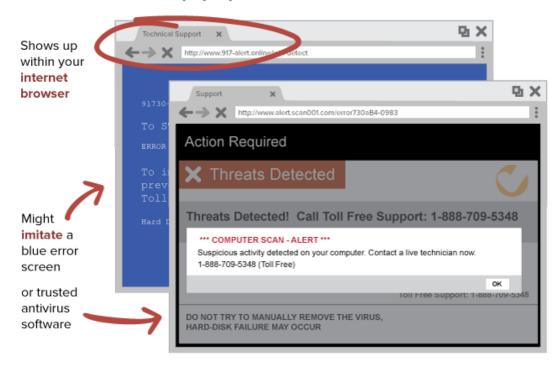
Here's what to tell consumers:

- Your SSN is not about to be suspended!
- Real SSA's number is 1-800-772-1213, but don't trust Caller ID
- What the SSA Scam sounds like at <u>www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2018/12/what-social-security-scam-sounds</u>
- Recent Alert (March 6) at: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/03/getting-calls-ssa

HOW TO SPOT A

TECH SUPPORT SCAM

It often starts with a pop-up . . .



CALL	NOW	OR ELSE
Wants you to call a toll-free number	Urges you to call immediately	Threatens that you may lose personal data if you don't call

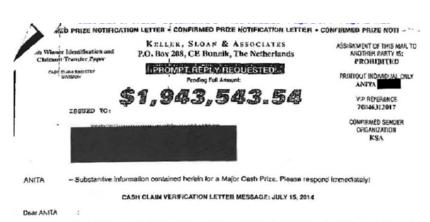
Tech Support Scams

Tips for Consumers:

- Legitimate tech companies won't contact you by phone, email or text message to tell you there's a problem with your computer.
- Security pop-up warnings from real tech companies will never ask you to call a phone number.

https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-spot-avoid-and-report-tech-support-scams

Sweepstakes & Grant Scams



Pursuant to the headline above and through which we are now contacting you via this dated correspondence, please understand true this is NOT a preliminary or qualification letter of cash prize status; YOU HAVE WON A CASH PRIZE:

This letter constitutes actual designation of ANTA3 as a cash price winner! May we offer our warmest visities at this moment from the management and axecutive offices, as well as our entire organization and staff.

Please be assured of the accurateness of this documentation?

Your name was identified among a tiny percentage of ALL eligible individuals who could have received this notice. The tact that you have you a cash prize must be initing and somewhat overstellaring, we sak that you read carefully. Do not skip alwayd, Your response to this tester is MANDATORY to chaim the cash prize you have been develored to receive.

To inflate issuance of your Prize Check, you must RETURN THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT before the deadline date specified by the enclosed according to the rules and terms highs. Failure to do so will invalidate the prize confirmation and result is forfacture of the Chock weeking dispatch to you clinically by according to.

We would like to proceed with resolution of your cash prize quickly!

[#1] Your cash prize will be drawn and paid in single tump sum {Section A / page 2}

(12) Swilepstakes report documentation for the total aggregate funds amount of \$1,943,543,64 as noted above is awaiting your rapply with premeding see (Soction 9.7 pages) for outright access to the amount fiscal above. (This is not a mintake.)

The total amount, \$1,943,543.54, being awarded by independent prize sponsors is continued and will be resolved at final proceedings pending. We are delighted to provide notification of the winners total entitlement amount, is writing, and to issue upon your recycled payment of the processing fee, full report documents and claim procedures for the maximum aggregate funds as filed by this recorded feater and varietated at \$1,943,543.54.

Please take a, morrorit to read and complete the accompanying paperwork carefully. We are prepared to process and make delivery of the

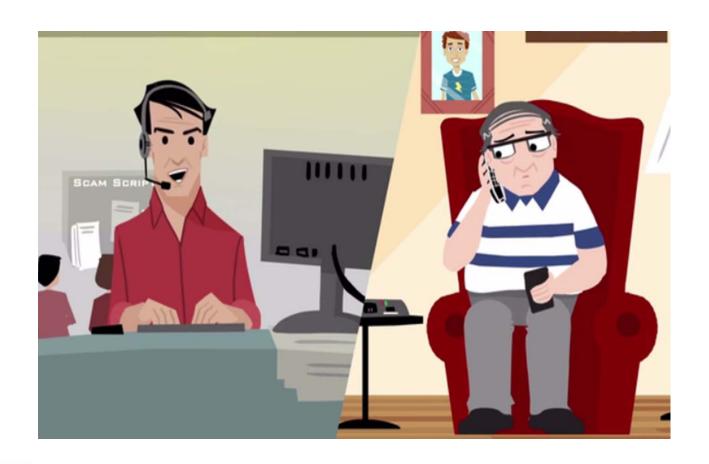
Sweepstakes Scams

- Never pay to collect a so-called prize or grant
- Legit sweepstakes don't make you pay a fee
- www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0199-prize-scams

Grant Scams

- No surprise government grants
- No charge for a government grant or for a list of government grants-making agencies
- Grants.gov one place to apply
- <u>www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0113-government-grant-scams</u>

Family Emergency Scams



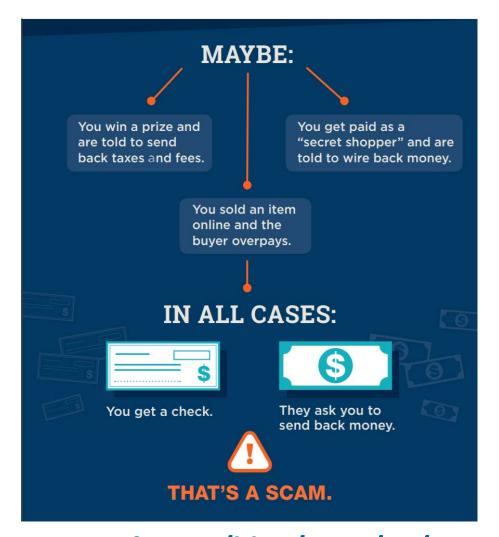
Family Emergency Scams

Tips for Consumers:

- SLOW DOWN
- Get off the phone and check with a family member or friend. (Even if they say it's a secret)
- Do not wire money or buy a prepaid card or a gift card and give someone the card's numbers
- www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0204-familyemergency-scams

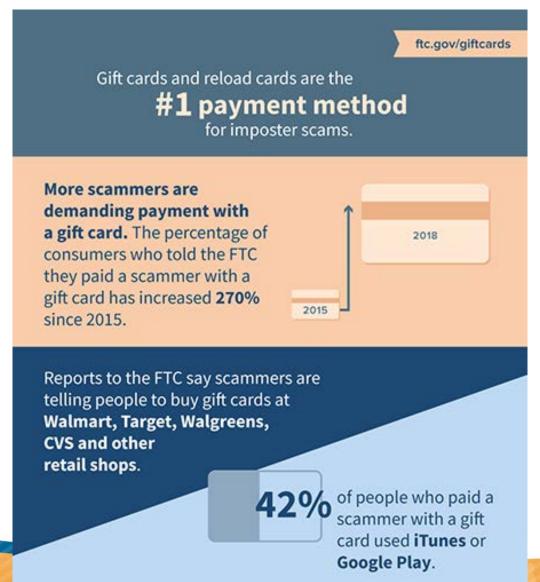
Fake Check Scams

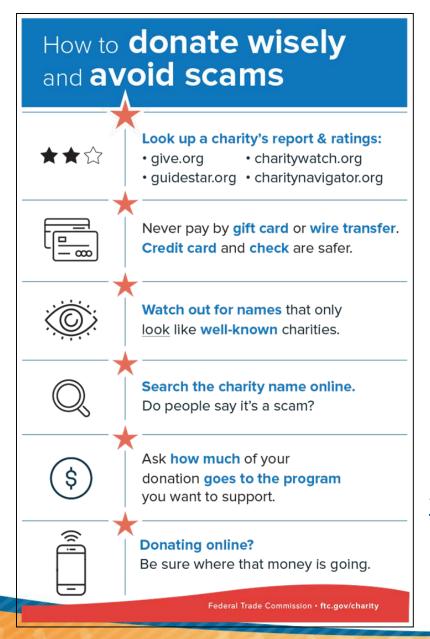




<u>www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2018/09/anatomy</u> <u>-fake-check-scam</u>

FTC.gov/giftcards





Charity Scams

Other tips at:

www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0074-giving-charity

Unwanted Calls

- Telemarketing robocalls are more than just annoying: they are illegal
- The FTC has sued operations selling:
 - medical alert and home security systems
 - interest rate reduction services
 - auto warranties
 - free vacations

Unwanted Calls

www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/how-stop-unwanted-calls

- Report them:
 - DoNotCall.gov or 1-888-382-1222
- FTC shares information about reported unwanted calls with phone companies
 - Helps them block numbers
- Don't trust caller ID: easy to spoof
- Just hang up! It's ok to be rude
- Call-blocking technology
 - www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0548-blockingunwanted-calls

Debt Collection and Debt Scams

Fake Debt Collection Scams

www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0258-fake-debt-collectors

Mortgage Relief & Foreclosure Rescue Scams

www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0100-mortgage-relief-scams

www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0193-facing-foreclosure

Student Loan Debt Scams

www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/1028-student-loans www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa

Opportunity Scams

- Investments
- Job scams
- Business opportunities



- NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
- EARN THOUSANDS MONTHLY
- ✓ BECOME PART OF A WINNING TEAM
- ✓ WORK FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

CALL TODAY AND START **EARNING TOMORROW!**

Small Business Scams

- Unordered supplies
- Business directory listings
- Domain name/website registrations
- Payment processing
- Charity scams

www.FTC.gov/SmallBusiness



IDENTITY THEFT

Someone uses your personal information to

- Open accounts
- File taxes
- Buy things



Examples of Misuse

- Open Credit Cards
- Open Utility Accounts
- Apply for a Tax Refund
- Get a Loan
- Apply for Employment
- Get Medical Care



Impact on Victims

- Denial of credit/loans
- Denial of public benefits
- Denial of medical care
- Denial/loss of employment
- Harassment by debt collectors
- Legal issues/arrest
- Stress/anxiety
- Recovery time/expense





Reduce the Risk

- Review mail, especially financial statements
- Check credit report every year:
 - Free report from <u>AnnualCreditReport.com</u>
- Protect Social Security and Medicare numbers
- Store documents securely and shred before discarding
- File taxes early

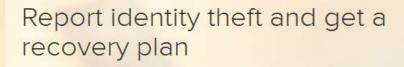
Data Breaches

- What to do?
 - Check credit reports
 - Review payment card statements carefully
 - Consider a fraud alert or credit freeze
 - To learn more about steps to take after a data breach, visit <u>IdentityTheft.gov/databreach</u>

New Law, New Credit Rights

- FRAUD ALERTS now last one year rather than 90 days
- CREDIT FREEZES are free for all
 - Also for kids under age 16
 - Also for incapacitated adults
- FREE CREDIT MONITORING for active duty military starting May 24, 2019
- For more information, go to ftc.gov/newcreditlaw





Get Started ->

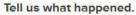
or browse recovery steps

IdentityTheft.gov can help you report and recover from identity theft.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

TO DO:





We'll ask some questions about your situation. Tell us as much as you can.



Get a recovery plan.

We'll use that info to create a personal recovery plan.





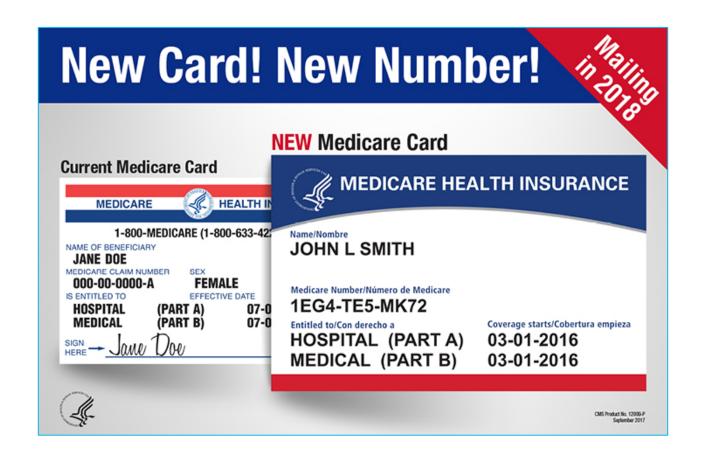


Put your plan into action.

If you create an account, we'll walk you through each recovery step, update your plan as needed, track your progress, and pre-fill forms and letters for you.

New Medicare Cards

Started In April 2018, Finished Wave Card Mailing In January 2019



New Medicare Cards – If Someone with Medicare Says They Haven't Received Their New Card

Instruct them to:

- Look around their house for old or unopened mail. We mailed new Medicare cards in a plain white envelope from the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Sign into MyMedicare.gov to get their new number or print an official card. They'll need to create an account, if they don't already have one.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) where we can verify their identity, check their address and help them get their new card.
- Ask their health care provider, who may be able to securely look up their new number at the point-of-service.
- Continue to use their current card to get health care services until they get their new card. They can use their old card until January 1, 2020.

Federal Trade Commission 34

New Medicare Cards – Stay Connected

• Find more technical information, detailed updates, training opportunities, and materials to share on the web:

CMS.gov/newcard

Information for people with Medicare:

Medicare.gov/newcard

 Comments and questions are always welcome! Send to: <u>NewMedicareCardSSNRemoval@cms.hhs.gov</u>

Report Fraud to the FTC



FTC.gov/complaint or FTC.gov/queja
1-877-FTC-HELP



NJ Division of Consumer Affairs

PROTECTING NEW JERSEY CONSUMERS IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

Paul R. Rodríguez, Acting Director New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs March, 2019









WHO WE ARE...

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs touches on almost every area of life...

We license or register businesses throughout the state;

We support the boards and committees that regulate most professions;

We educate New Jersey Consumers; and

We enforce the Consumer Fraud Act and related statutes with our CALA partners.



TOP TEN COMPLAINTS (2018)...

- 1. Home Improvement, including home improvement services, HVAC, and alarm systems
- 2. Motor Vehicles
- 3. Professional Services and Occupations
- **4.** Phone Complaints, including telemarketing and wireless phones
- 5. Home Repair Service Contracts
- Medical and Care-related
- 7. Credit
- 8. Internet Sales/Goods
- 9. Home Construction, Sales and Furnishings
- **10**. Scams



WHAT CONSUMERS TELL US...

Impostor scams are a major issue. They include:

The Grandparent scam— a caller impersonates a family member in need of quick cash; and

The Government Imposter scam—the caller claims to be from the IRS, Social Security, or the FBI and demands immediate payment on threat of arrest or other action.

Note: Imposter callers often ask to be paid with gift cards or other prepaid cards.



NJ AND CYBERSECURITY...

New Jersey is stepping up enforcement on data privacy and cyber security:

New Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Section within the Attorney General's Office

New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications
Integration Cell to respond to cyber threats and incidents

Recent actions include online protection for children, protecting consumer healthcare information, and responding to data breaches and data misuse.



WHAT ABOUT ID THEFT?

The *Identity Theft Prevention Act* regulates how businesses use and dispose of your sensitive personal information, and *allows consumers to*:

- File and get copies of ID theft police reports; and
- Be notified if their information is compromised

If you believe you are a victim of identity theft and have questions, *CONTACT US*. We can direct you to multiple resources that support victims of ID theft.



HOW TO COMPLAIN ONLINE...





NJ Division of Consumer Affairs

CONTACT INFORMATION

1-800-242-5846 (toll free within NJ)

1-973-504-6200

Email: AskConsumer Affairs@dca.lps.state.nj.us

NJConsumerAffairs.gov

IS OUR NUMBER ONE
PRIORITY



New Jersey County And Municipal Consumer Affairs – CAMCA

CAMCA is an association of county and municipal consumer agencies, consumer advocate groups, attorneys, members of the Attorney General offices and other professionals that deal with the public from NJ, NY, PA, and DE

MISSION: To educate, advocate, protect and empower consumers of all ages

Contact us: camcaseminar@gmail.com

Website: camcaconnect.org

CAMC

How BBB® Helps

- BBB works for a trustworthy marketplace by:
 - Settling disputes
 - Maintaining standards for truthful advertising
 - Investigating and exposing fraud against consumers and businesses
 - Providing information to consumers before they buy products and services

Investigating/Exposing Fraud

- Although BBB does not have legal and policing powers, we provide information about marketplace fraud through alerts on scams to the public.
- BBB works closely with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, providing them with valuable information on potential frauds.

BBB Scam Tracker

- BBB.org/ScamTracker
- Check out scams from across North America
- Help us investigate and warn others by reporting what you know
- Top in 2018 (of the 50,559 reported)
 - Online purchase
 - Phishing
 - Employment (Riskiest! Exposure x Susceptibility x \$ Loss)
- BBB.org/RiskReport
- Learn more about scam types BBB.org/ScamTips





Find out where scams



BBB Serving New Jersey

1262 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Road
Bldg A, Ste 202
Hamilton, NJ 08690
609-588-0808
Live operators
info@newjersey.bbb.org

Find your local BBB at www.bbb.org

New Jersey's Legal Services System

https://www.lsnj.org

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) is a non-profit organization that coordinates and supports all five regional Legal Services programs, with branch offices in all 21 counties. We provide essential legal aid in civil cases, such as eviction, foreclosure, access to healthcare, consumer fraud, and domestic violence.

Statewide Hotline 1-888-LSNJ-LAW

1-888-576-5529

Open for calls 8:00 to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services

Bergen County Office

190 Moore Street, Suite 100, Hackensack, NJ 07601

Tel: 201-487-2166

Hudson County Office

574 Summit Avenue, 2nd Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07306 Tel: 201-792-6363

Passaic County Office

152 Market Street, 6th Floor, Paterson, NJ 07505

Tel: 973-523-2900

Essex-Newark Legal Services

5 Commerce Street, 2nd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102 Tel: 973-624-4500

Legal Services of Northwest Jersey

Hunterdon County

82 Park Avenue Flemington, NJ 08822 Tele.: (908) 782-7979

Somerset County

90 East Main Street, 3rd Floor Somerville, NJ 08876 Tele.: (908) 231-0840

Warren County

91 Front Street Belvidere, NJ 07823-1437 Tele.: (908) 475-2010

Morris County

30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor P.O. Box 900 Morristown, NJ 07963 Tele.: (973) 285-6911

Sussex County

18 Church Street, Suite 120 Newton, NJ 07860 Tele.: (973) 383-7400

Central Jersey Legal Services

Trenton

198 West State Street Trenton, NJ 08608 Phone: (609) 695-6249

Perth Amboy

313 State Street, Suite 308 Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 Phone: (732) 324-1613

New Brunswick

317 George Street, Suite 201 New Brunswick, NJ 08901 Phone: (732) 249-7600

Elizabeth

60 Prince Street Elizabeth, NJ 07208 Phone: (908) 354-4340

South Jersey Legal Services

Atlantic County Office

1300 Atlantic Avenue Mezzanine Floor Atlantic City, NJ 08401 (609) 348-4200

Burlington County Office

107 High Street Mount Holly, NJ 08060 (609) 261-1088

Camden County Office

745 Market Street Camden, NJ 08102 (856) 964-2010

Cape May County Office

1261 Route 9 South Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 (609) 465-3001

Cumberland/Salem County Office

415 W. Landis Avenue-2nd Floor Vineland, NJ 08360 (856) 691-0494

Gloucester County Office

47 Newton Avenue Woodbury, NJ 08096 (856) 848-5360

Monmouth County Office

303 West Main Street, Third Floor Freehold, NJ 07728 (732) 414-6750

Ocean County Office

215 Main Street Toms River, NJ 08753 (732) 608-7794

HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER TO FIGHT FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT?

Keep up with the latest scams and share with your community

- Follow us on social media and share:
 - @FTC
 - @laFTC
 - @MilConsumer
 - Facebook.com/FederalTradeCommission
 - Facebook.com/MilitaryConsumer

Sign up for FTC's Consumer Alerts

GET EMAIL UPDATES

- Sign up for Consumer Alerts at FTC.gov/Subscribe
- Share these alerts on your website, in your newsletter or emails, or on social media

Use and Share Free FTC Resources

- Consumer.FTC.gov: hundreds of fraud articles
- <u>Consumer.gov</u>: consumer protection basics, plain and simple
- FTC.gov/PassItOn: helping older adults protect others from fraud
- YouTube.com/FTCVideos: view and share videos

Use and Share Free FTC Resources <u>Bulkorder.FTC.gov</u>





Talk to Us

- Help for New Jersey's Congressional delegation
 - Derick Rill, FTC's Office of Congressional Relations
 drill@ftc.gov or 202-326-3007
- Consumer Sentinel Network
 - www.ftc.gov/enforcement/consumer-sentinel-network
 - Law enforcement groups can obtain access to complaints by contacting Nick Mastrocinque at nmastrocinque@ftc.gov

Thank you for joining us!

Speakers:

- Bill Efron, FTC Northeast Regional Office
- Paul R. Rodríguez, Office of the New Jersey Attorney General
- Annmarie DeVito, New Jersey County and Municipal Consumer Affairs
- Melissa Companick, Better Business Bureau Serving NJ
- David McMillin, Legal Services of New Jersey
- Lakezia Carmichael, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Patti Poss & Ari Lazarus, FTC

Thank you for joining us!

Slides available at: Consumer.gov/StateWebinars

Please spread the word to fight fraud and identity theft throughout New Jersey!

Feedback about the webinar:

everycommunity@ftc.gov

