Avoiding Scams

Speaking Up For Us
All around us scams take place

• People will use the phone, text message, email and more to access information.
• Not everyone who is collecting food or money is a scammer.
• Sometimes a scam can happen with those that are close to you.
• We will look at how to recognize a scam, how to keep your personal information safe and what to do if you think you have been scammed.
For many weeks we heard that Zoom could access our personal information.

SUFU has taken many steps to keep from being ‘zoombombed’ and being scammed.

We have changed our settings so that only the host can have control of the screen.

We have added a waiting room so we can see who wants to join our meeting.

Zoom has also upgraded their security settings.
Many have already received their Economic Impact Payment or Stimulus Check.

This check is for you to spend on items you may want or need.

This check is not to be counted towards your services.

You should not give this money to anyone to hold for you. Even if that person is a friend or family member.

If you have someone asking you for some of your money tell them no.

You can also call Disability Rights Maine at 1-800-452-1948 if you need help with this.
• You have one year to spend the money.
• You can plan how you want to spend it.
• You can save it in an ABLE Account.
• You can work with those who help you with decisions if you need to.
Door to Door Scams

- People may come door to door asking for donations such as food, money, and other items during this time.
  - If you want to make a donation to an organization find one in your area.
- Others may offer you a service that you do not need.
  - They are just trying to get your information, or your money.
- Say “No Thank you” and shut the door.
- Tell someone.
Scams with Technology

• Phone Scams are common
• This can be a phone call, or a text message.
• There are some ways you can protect yourself:
  • Don’t answer or simply hang up.
  • Screen your calls. If you don’t recognize the number and the person doesn’t leave a message it wasn’t important. You can always call people back.
  • Delete and Block numbers of text messages or phone calls that are scams.
• Do not give out your personal information. If it is a company that you do business with, they already have your account information.
Email Scams

- Some scams will come in the form of an email.
- Many emails now sort your email and put scams in your ‘junk mail’ box.
- Delete emails in your junk mail.
- Do not click on a link in an email.
- If the email asks for your personal information do not give it to them.
- Again if it is a place you already do business with they have your account information.
What Scammers Are Looking For

- They want your personal information. Your Social Security Number, Your Birthdate, Your Bank Account Number.

- They may tell you that you are getting a payment or refund. They will claim you need to pay something to get it. That is a scam.

- Others may try to get your information by using online dating. They will show an interest in you and then repeatedly ask for money. **Never** send money to someone you have not met face-to-face.

- Others still may tell you that you won a prize – one that they have never entered. Again they will ask you for a payment to cover ‘taxes’ or other fees.