

Who should I notify about fraud or scam attempts?

- Federal Trade Commission (FTC) toll free hotline: 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357)
- FTC online complaint form www.ftc.gov
- Internet Fraud Complaint Center www.ic3.gov
- Your local police precinct.

If you need advice about an Internet or telemarketing solicitation, or you want to report a possible scam call the NFIC hotline at **1-800-876-7060** or visit the website at www.fraud.org

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

www.onguardonline.gov
www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com
www.nyc.gov

**FOR EMERGENCIES
DIAL 911
ALL OTHER TIMES CALL YOUR
LOCAL PRECINCT**



Crime Prevention Section

34 ½ East 12th Street
New York, N.Y. 10003
212-614-6741

You can help us fight terrorism,
Report suspicious activity to:
1-888-NYC-SAFE
1-888-692-7233

**NEW YORK CITY POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Safety Tips for Users of Internet Classified Ads



As more people use the internet to find the best deals to buy merchandise, they have also unfortunately fallen prey to internet predators. These predators use classified ad websites to lure potential buyers/sellers to locations. Once they arrive, victims are robbed of their money or merchandise. These predators also use other internet scams to take your money or identity.

Here are safety tips to prevent you from falling victim to these internet predators:

SCAM AND FRAUD PREVENTION:

- Deal locally; Avoid long distance or overseas transactions.
- Never wire funds via money transfer services/money wire services - anyone who asks you to do so is a scammer.
- Never send money to a P.O. Box address
- Beware of Counterfeit cashier checks & money orders. Banks will cash them and then hold you responsible when the fraud is discovered weeks later.
- Never give out financial information (bank account number, social security number, credit card number, etc.).
- Avoid deals involving shipping or escrow services and know that only a scammer will **"guarantee"** your transaction.

- Counterfeit (knockoffs) & stolen merchandise are commonly sold via the internet.

INTERNET CRIME SCHEMES

Internet crime schemes that steal millions of dollars each year from victims continue to plague the Internet. The following is a listing of some of these schemes. For more information logon to www.ic3.gov & click on the link [Internet Crime Schemes](#) for a detailed explanation of each scheme.

- Counterfeit Cashier's Check
- Credit Card Fraud
- Debt Elimination
- DHL/UPS
- Employment/Business Opportunities
- Escrow Services Fraud
- Identity Theft
- Internet Extortion
- Investment Fraud
- Lotteries
- Nigerian Letter or "419"
- Phishing/Spoofing
- Ponzi/Pyramid
- Reshipping
- Spam
- Third Party Receiver of Funds

ROBBERY PREVENTION:

- Avoid personal meetings for money/merchandise exchanges.

If meeting in person is absolutely necessary...

- Avoid locations that you are unfamiliar with.
- Agree to meet in a public place with heavy pedestrian traffic flow.
- Avoid going alone.
- Tell someone where you're going and when you should be back.
- Once at the location, survey the area before you meet. If things don't "look or feel" right then leave. Trust your instincts!
- Once at the location don't agree to go to another location, it could be a setup.

Remember, if it looks too good to be true it probably is!!!

Don't become a victim!!!