

Protecting Yourself From



With the increase in digital communications in our modern world, thieves use the internet and telephones to mask their identities in ripping off the unsuspecting. Many Scams out there seek to separate the innocent from their hard earned money and identities. But there are steps each of us can take to better protect ourselves from unwittingly giving our money and/or our identification to those who seek to do us harm. Identity theft is both a state and federal offense. ID theft typically occurs when a victim's social security number or other personal identifying information is stolen and used to obtain credit cards, loans or commit another form of fraud in the victim's name. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the country, victimizing millions of people every year - and consumers must be on alert. Many people right here in Columbia County have been either victimized by or contacted by scammers and/or ID thieves. Vigilance and wisdom on the part of those we serve is the best bet. If you have been victimized or attempts have been made to take advantage of you, click on the "What if I am a victim" link below.

To find out more about Scams and Identity Theft, check the links below:

[SCAMS](#) [IDENTITY THEFT](#) [What If I am a victim?](#)