



## SCAM ALERT

### Types of Scams

Scammers are setting up websites, contacting people by phone and email, and posting disinformation on social media platforms. Here are some scams and frauds you should be aware of....

- ❖ **Treatment scams** – Scammers offering fake cures and vaccines for COVID-19.
- ❖ **Supply scams** – Scammers asking for money to get medical supplies to hospitals.
- ❖ **Provider scams** - Scammers contacting people by phone and email, pretending to be doctors or hospitals that have treated a friend or relative for COVID-19, and are demanding payment for treatment.
- ❖ **Charity scams:** Scammers soliciting donations for those affected by COVID-19.
- ❖ **Phishing scams:** Scammers posing as national and global health authorities, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are sending phishing emails designed to trick recipients into downloading malware or providing personal identifying and financial information.
- ❖ **App scams:** Scammers are creating and manipulating mobile apps designed to track the spread of COVID-19 to insert malware that will compromise your devices and personal information.
- ❖ **Investment scams:** Scammers are offering online promotions on various platforms, including social media, claiming that the products or services of publicly traded companies can prevent, detect, or cure COVID-19, and that the stock of these companies will dramatically increase in value as a result. These promotions often reference “research reports,” make predictions of a specific “target price.”
- ❖ **Loan Scams:** Personal loan companies offering “emergency” money to help you weather the crisis but that money comes with an astronomical interest rate.
- ❖ **Mariner Finance** is making those calls right now.

To file a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General:

<https://www.oag.state.va.us/consumer-protection/index.php/file-a-complaint>

**For further assistance, contact Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society**



**ONLINE** Our online application



**BY PHONE** We accept requests for assistance by phone (1-888-201-2772) Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to Noon and from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. OR Friday from 8:30 am to 12:30 p.m.

For online resources on donating wisely, visit the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website. <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts> Be wary of *anyone* requesting payments or donations in cash, by wire transfer, gift card, or mail. **Don't** send money through any of these channels.