***Ventura County (VC) Fraud/Scam Reporting, Resources and Support***

**National Elder Fraud Hotline** 1-833-372-8311 National federal hotline for adults 60 and over in reporting fraud and providing support and resources/safety tips. Many languages.

**Report Fraud to Local Police as Well as One or More of These Federal Govt. Databases**

* [www.ic3.gov](about:blank) Report Internet Related Fraud to the FBI
* [www.reportfraud.ftc.gov](about:blank) Report fraud to the Federal Trade Commission
* [www.identitytheft.gov](about:blank) Report Identity Theft to the FTC
* [https://www.uspis.gov/report](about:blank) U.S Postal Inspection Service
  + Report theft/fraud involving mail 1-877-876-2455

**National and State Helplines and Websites for Support and Safety Information**

* **AARP Fraud Watch Network and ReST program** 1-877-908-3360 If you or a loved one has been targeted by a scam, specialists provide free support and guidance on what to do next. Includes group discussions/support. [https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/voa-rest-program/](about:blank)
* **CA AG Identity Theft Assistance** How to freeze credit with 3 credit bureaus and other helpful tips. <https://oag.ca.gov/idtheft/information-sheets>
* **California Contractor’s State License Board** 1-800-321-2752 Protects CA consumers by licensing and regulating the state’s construction industry. [https://www.cslb.ca.gov/](about:blank)
* **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** 1-855-411-2372Federal agency takes complaints regarding financial businesses such as federal banks and lenders or products, including contact with agency. File a complaint against a bank, lender/ financial institution. What happens next? [https://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/data-use/](about:blank) and [https://www.consumerfinance.gov/](about:blank)
* **CA Dept Financial Protection and Innovation** 1-866-275-26677 Regulates a variety of state licensed financial services, products, crypto currency fraud and professionals including state licensed banks and credit unions. [https://dfpi.ca.gov/](https://dfpi.ca.gov/%20)
* **Cybercrime Support Network** Online steps to take if victim of cybercrime including reporting links, romance support group.[www.fightcybercrime.org](about:blank)
* **FINRA** 1-844-574-3577 Senior Helpline on investment accounts including fraud, crypto, brokers, check on broker licensing and past complaints in investment frauds/opportunities. [www.finra.org/investors/need-help/helpline seniors](http://www.finra.org/investors/need-help/helpline%20seniors)
* **Identity Theft Resource Center** 1-888-400-5530 Online and phone help for identity theft issues. [www.idtheftcenter.org](about:blank)
* **US Senate Subcommittee on Aging Fraud Hotline** 1-855-303-9470

Information/complaints/frustrations.[https://www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline](about:blank)

* **National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** Dial or text to ‘988’ or 1-800-273-8255
* **Bankruptcy Information and counseling:** 
  + US Bankruptcy Courthttps://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/bankruptcy
  + NGO consumer credit counseling programs https://www.justice.gov/ust/credit-counseling-debtor-education-information
* **Re tax issues:** Speak with a licensed tax professional, such as a CPA, as to whether the theft of this money is deductible for state and federal taxes.
  + You may also want to check with the IRS Taxpayer Advocate, especially if you are unable to pay taxes due, as a result of the crime at <https://www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/contact-us/> or 1-877-777-4778.
  + Global Anitscam.org has a tax guide for US residents who have had money stolen in crypto-investment frauds. Please consult with a tax professional as to the legitimacy of this information for your situation. <https://www.globalantiscam.org/post/2021-tax-filing-guide-for-usa-scam-victims>
* **Want to consult with a civil attorney or Legal Aid advice?**
  + Find an attorney? National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys <https://www.naela.org/> or local Bar Association for lawyer referral services.

**Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Guides:** Helpful government issued guides to deal with issues such as financial caregiver options, planning for diminished capacity or illness and information on managing other people’s money at [www.consumerfinance.gov](about:blank)

* Considering a Financial Caregiver: Know Your Options <https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_considering-a-financial-caregiver-know-your-options_guide_2021-05.pdf>
* Planning for Diminished Capacity and Illness Guide https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb\_planning-for-diminished-capacity-and-illness\_consumer-advisory-bulletin.pdf
* Guide to Managing Someone Else’s Money: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/managing-someone-elses-money> including sections on Power of Attorney, Govt. Fiduciary, Trustee, or Court Appointed Guardian Roles

**Ventura County Local Fraud/Exploitation Assistance, Support and Resources**

* **VC Adult Protective Services (APS)** 1-805-654-3200 APS investigates allegations of abuse/neglect/exploitation and fraud, assess client needs, and provides short-term case management and a connection to other services. [https://reporttoaps.org](about:blank)
* **Central Coast Alzheimer’s Society** 1-800-272-3900 or Ventura 1-805-547-3830

Information and support for persons with dementia, and caregivers/family.

[https://www.alz.org/cacentralcoast](about:blank)

* **Grey Law of Ventura County** 1-800-658-2266 Free legal advice to older adults including issues involving Social Security, Medicare, Powers of Attorney, Landlord/Tenant questions and other issues. [http://www.greylaw.us/home.html](about:blank)
* **Long Term Care Ombudsman** 1-805-656-1986 Investigates and works to resolve complaints on behalf of residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in VC. [http://www.greylaw.us/home.html](about:blank)
* **VC Area Agency on Aging** 1-805-477-7300 Information on meals, housing, social services, caregiving, legal assistance, and other help including Health Insurance counseling including Medicare/Medicaid fraud. [https://www.vcaaa.org/](about:blank)
* **VC District Attorney’s Office** 1-805-654-2500 For information on how/where to report fraud crimes involving but not limited to elder adults, real estate fraud, computer and technology crimes and consumer frauds. [https://www.vcdistrictattorney.com/](about:blank)
* **VC Family Justice Center** 1-805-652-7655 More than 40 agencies available to assist victims impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, child exploitation, elder and dependent adult abuse/exploitation, trafficking, and other crimes. [https://vcfjc.org/](about:blank)
* **211 VC Referrals** to food banks, housing, mental health etc. [www.211ventura.org](about:blank)

**Online classes and meeting groups may help with boredom and loneliness, and those with mobility issues in ‘finding what to replace that fraud relationship’. It may be helpful if you join them in the first few classes.**

* **Engaged The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults**
  + https://www.engagingolderadults.org/
* **GetSetUp** [www.getsetup.org](about:blank) Offers over 3,000 classes, online activities to both teach and learn with other older adults in many countries and languages.
* Cyberseniors: Connecting Generations [https://cyberseniors.org/](about:blank) [https://www.youtube.com/user/cyberseniorscorner/videos](about:blank)  (past presentations)
* Covia.org [https://covia.org/services/well-connected/](about:blank)
* University Without Walls [https://www.dorotusa.org/our-programs/at-home/university-without-walls](about:blank)
* Foundation For Art and Healing- the Unlonely Project [https://artandhealing.org/aging/](about:blank)
* Osher Lifelong Learning Institute- through local universities
  + Link to local programs- https://sps.northwestern.edu/oshernrc/
* Local programs perhaps through senior centers, community colleges, libraries/local, state warmlines
* Memory Cafes for those with dementia to connect with each other-
  + - [https://www.dementiamentors.org](about:blank)
    - [https://myspecialmatch.com](about:blank)