

Delaware Top 10 Scams 2021

1. Identity Theft (3,224)

- Identity thieves use a victim's personal information (e.g., Social Security number, bank account information, and credit card numbers) to pose as that individual for their own gain. Using the target's identity, the thief may open a credit account, drain an existing account, file tax returns, or obtain medical coverage. (BBB Definition)
 - <https://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/fraud/cpu/idtheft/>
 - More Information: <https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/16951-bbb-tip-identity-theft>

2. Online Shopping (2,389)

- These cons often involve purchases and sales, often on eBay, Craigslist, or other direct seller-to buyer sites. Scammers may pretend to purchase an item only to send a bogus check and ask for a refund of the "accidental" overpayment. In other cases, if the scammer is the seller, they never deliver the goods. (BBB Definition)
 - More information: <https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/16925-bbb-tip-online-purchase-scams>
 - <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0020-shopping-online>

3. Imposter Scams (1,998)

- Imposter scams come in many varieties but work the same way: a scammer pretends to be someone you trust to convince you to send them money. (FTC definition)
 - Resources for how to spot a scam:
<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0037-imposter-scams>
 - Common Imposter Scams include:
 - IRS Scam
 - Grandparent Scam
 - Scams purporting to be a Court, Sherriff, or other agency threatening arrest or other action.

4. Auto Related (Auto Parts or Repair, Used Car Experience, New Car Experience, Auto Warranties) (465)

- These complaints can include selling cars that have undisclosed problems or selling extended warranties but refusing to cover expenses.
- More information can be found at <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/media-resources/consumer-finance/auto-marketplace>

5. Prizes, Sweepstakes and Lotteries (379)

- A sweepstakes operation entices consumers to send money to win cash prizes.
 - Example: The defendants' letters led many consumers to believe that they had to pay a processing fee to receive the cash prize, but none of those who sent the fee received the promised prize. (FTC Definition)
 - For more information on how to avoid these types of scams visit:
<https://www.bbb.org/all/scamstudies/sweepstakes--lottery--and-prize-scams/sweepstakes--lottery--and-prize-scams-update>

6. Internet Services (387)

- The use of Internet services or software with Internet access to defraud victims or to otherwise take advantage of them. Internet crime schemes steal millions of dollars each year from victims and continue to plague the Internet through various methods. (FBI Definition)

- More information on how to spot a scam: <https://www.bbb.org/all/spot-a-scam>

7. Telephone and Mobile Services (275)

- Scams and complaints related to mobile plans, rates or coverage areas; problems with mobile applications or downloads; unauthorized switching of consumers' phone service provider; misleading pre-paid phone card offers; VoIP service problems; electronic consumer products such as smart watches and connected-home devices that can connect to the internet and use a processor or sensors to collect consumer information; etc. (FTC Definition)
 - More information on how to spot and report a tech scam can be found at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-spot-avoid-and-report-tech-support-scams>

8. Business and Job Opportunities (202)

- Common scams that target small businesses and non-profit organizations, Scammers' tactics include promises of a job, guaranteed money, and often says you can work from home. (FTC Definition)
 - More information that provides steps people can take to protect themselves or their company from scams can be found at <https://www.consumer.gov/content/job-and-business-opportunity-scams.gov>.

9. Travel, Vacations and Timeshares (158)

- Listings are posted for properties that are not for rent, do not exist, or are significantly different from what's pictured. In another variation, scammers claim to specialize in timeshare resales and promise they have buyers ready to purchase. (BBB Definition)
 - More information can be found at <https://www.bbb.org/article/scams/16913-bbb-tip-5-top-vacation-scams-to-watch-when-making-travel-plans>
 - <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0027-travel-scams>

10. Privacy, Data Security, and Cyber Threats (102)

- Scams and complaints that arise from companies wrongfully using consumer data or private information, or not correctly storing consumer data. (FTC Definition)
 - <https://www.ftc.gov/reports/privacy-data-security-update-2016#data>