



# A Quick Look at the Risks for Virtual Scams and Fraud!



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# If you receive a call from unknown parties, soliciting money or other actions:

- **Ignore the caller's instructions.** No law enforcement officer, government agency or responsible business will ever request personal details or a money transfer via phone call for any reason!
- Call a trusted friend or a close relative before you act – you may be overwhelmed by emotion and err in your judgement.
- Scammers can mask their actual phone number and display a different number. Calls that appear to be from a local number may be from elsewhere, even foreign countries!
- If you receive a suspicious call from a local number, hang up, wait a while, then call the number back to check the validity of the request with a friend or relative present.
- Do not provide your name, social security #, passport details, contact information, passwords, bank account or credit card details to anyone who is unknown to you ... ever!

***Notify law enforcement and follow their guidance.***

# **If you receive a call from unknown parties, soliciting money or other actions:**

- A common ploy is for callers to claim to be with or even pose as a relative or friend in distress or immediate need of help, often using the poor quality of distant cell phone calls to explain the fact that they may sound “different” to you.
- They may have learned much from a person’s social media account to give their call an authentic feel, even nicknames or specifics about activities on recent trips and visits.
- Scammers are con artists. They are very capable of making these calls sound “real” and reasonable – even to someone who is very aware of the risk! They prey on our instincts to want to help others, especially our own family or close friends!

# If you receive a call from unknown parties, soliciting money or other actions:

- Virtual frauds and scams sometimes target the families of students who are studying abroad!
- Ensure that family members are aware of this crime and understand that it is possible and not at all uncommon.
- If a family has any questions about a student's well-being, they should be addressed to her/his study abroad programming office, faculty advisor, or other university point of contact immediately!



If you receive a call from unknown parties, soliciting money or other actions:

The AARP's website (yes, the AARP ... it apparently is not just about travel discounts!) has a great resource to educate you about potential scams ... the page below offers links to detailed descriptions and further resources on 48 different specific categories of typical telephone and virtual scams and frauds:

[https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/?cmp=KNC-BRD-MC-REALPOSS-TODAY-BING-SEARCH-FRAUD&gclid=CNyX3qL0k-MCFaSVxQIdM\\_wJVA](https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/?cmp=KNC-BRD-MC-REALPOSS-TODAY-BING-SEARCH-FRAUD&gclid=CNyX3qL0k-MCFaSVxQIdM_wJVA)

***Don't be ...***

