

The 5 signs *of a scam*

Almost every scam uses one or more of these. If you spot one, stop and check before you do anything.

1

Pressure to act now

A deadline, a threat, or a story that makes you panic.

2

Secrecy

"Don't tell anyone." "Don't hang up." Real organizations never ask that.

3

Strange ways to pay

Gift cards, Bitcoin, cash handed to a courier, or money sent to a stranger.

4

Links, codes and passwords

A link to "verify" your account, or a code to read out loud.

5

Too good to be true

A prize you never entered, or a new love who needs money.

When in doubt

Stop. Hang up, or don't reply.

Check it yourself on a number you trust: the back of your card, an official website, or family on their usual number.

Talk it over with someone you trust.

Report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501. Forward scam texts to 7726.