

Education And Action Are Needed to Stop Scammers

Over the past month, two New York Times articles (“I’ve Written About Loads of Scams. This One Almost Got Me” and “The Doctors Are Real, but the Sales Pitches Are Frauds”) lay bare how fraudsters prey on Americans through online payments, social media, and phone scams. Sadly, as sheriffs, we see this every day.

Through the voices of individual sheriff offices and with the support of the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA), we have long warned about the surge in scams impersonating trusted figures like doctors, banks, even law enforcement. In our 2025 resolution, “[Protecting Consumers and Small Businesses From Online Scams](#),” we urged stronger consumer education, better law-enforcement tools, and stricter obligations on tech companies to detect and block scams.

Supercharged by rapidly evolving and easily accessible artificial intelligence, scammers abuse the trust of unsuspecting Americans by exploiting systemic gaps like weak seller verification on social platforms and lackluster mechanisms to prevent spoofing of legitimate phone numbers to name two.

Sheriffs are on the front lines of this fight. We investigate countless scams and recover hundreds of millions annually, yet billions vanish into overseas scam centers operating with the tacit blessing of foreign governments.

We applaud [recent actions](#) by the Trump Administration and urge Congress, regulators, and technology providers to adopt policies ensuring active detection and fraud prevention before the harm is done.

Let NSA know what you are doing in your communities to prevent scams and prosecute the criminals behind them. Your stories help educate communities about the dangers, demonstrate how swift action can be effective and underscore the need for more resources to protect consumers from these insidious attacks.

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