COVID-19 SCAM ALERT: Government Economic Impact Payment Scams

Scam at a glance:

Scammers are using the promise of COVID-19 economic impact payments to attempt to gain access to your personal and financial information.

Warning Signs:

- Receiving a call, text, or email saying that you are “Prequalified” to receive money as a result of the outbreak but you have to pay money upfront to receive those benefits.

- Demanding PayPal, bank account or other financial information in order to receive a COVID-19 payment.

- Being told that government checks are now available for those who qualify.

- Being told to click on a link to receive your payment or to see if you qualify.

- Arizonans are told they need to “sign up” for the economic payment.
Protect Yourself:

→ Anyone who says they can get you COVID-19 economic impact payments or help you qualify is a scammer.

→ Do not be influenced or threatened to pay money for financial relief.

→ Do not give out or confirm personal information to random strangers.

→ Government agencies will not text you or ask you to pay anything up-front to receive benefits.

→ Do not click links in unsolicited emails or text messages from numbers that you do not know.

Resources:

Arizona Consumer Protection Updates
www.AZAG.gov/consumer/covid-19

File a Consumer Complaint with Attorney General
www.AZAG.gov/complaints/consumer

Internal Revenue Service
www.IRS.gov/coronavirus

Centers for Disease Control
www.CDC.gov/Coronavirus or (800) 232-4636

Arizona Department of Economic Security
www.DES.AZ.gov/services/coronavirus
www.azag.gov/scamalert