

# Avoid Cyber Fraud

Keep an eye out for these red flags when surfing the web.



A National Lutheran Community

There's no doubt that technology is rapidly advancing and it can be hard to keep up. The internet can be a great way to stay connected, learn new things and purchase anything you might need without leaving home, but it can also be dangerous. Personal information is at risk, and it is important to know what to look out for in order to keep your information safe. Keep reading for our online safety tips so you can enjoy the internet without worrying about hackers and scammers.



## **Pay attention to web browser warnings:**

With the right security software, you can get web browser alerts that will tell you if any page you visit on the internet is unsafe. Look into your security software options to make sure you download one that is trustworthy and keep an eye out for these alerts so you can avoid any dangerous websites online.

## **Think again if there's a prize or a problem:**

Some of the most common ways that hackers or scammers will try to get your attention is through a prize or a problem. Maybe you've seen a pop-up claiming you are a winner for a contest you never entered or maybe you've gotten an email from a stranger asking for help. If you are asked to send money or personal information for any reason, it's a good idea to take a closer look. Never click on any links, give any money, or share any financial information unless the sender is from a party or organization you are familiar with and have conversed with in the past.

## **Check for dependable domains and URL (website address) names:**

A link is one of the easiest ways that scammers and hackers can gain access to our personal information, but the links they provide are often a little off. Before clicking a link, make sure to really look at the url and, if you see a suspicious email, check the "from" email address to make sure the link or email is safe. Keep an eye out for:

- Misspellings
- Inconsistent or incorrect punctuation
- Incorrect grammar or awkward phrasing

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Call 301-355-2801 or visit: [www.thevillageatrockville.org](http://www.thevillageatrockville.org)

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**Spell check:**

Oftentimes, those committing cyber fraud live outside the U.S. or other English-speaking countries so pay close attention to what they've written. Look for spelling errors, grammar mistakes, uncapitalized letters or misused punctuation as those may be signs that the message is from an untrustworthy source.

Follow these tips to maximize your security online so you can explore the internet without fear!



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