



Rhode Island LEGAL SERVICES

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Adela's Corner

April: Be Aware of Scams during Covid-19

During the Coronavirus Pandemic, we have seen many stories of communities coming together to help where they can. Local supermarkets making senior hours to allow them to get in and out of the store safely, SNAP providing an extra benefit, Hollywood donating their medical supplies to hospitals, and so much more. Unfortunately, not everyone has a kind heart. Scammers take any opportunity they can to take advantage of others for their own benefit. We should all be aware that there have been scams already reported related to the this pandemic.

1 Readers are encouraged to review the underlying information here and reminded that this bulletin is for informational purposes only. It does not create an attorney-client relationship.

IRS Issues Warnings about Phishing Scams

The IRS states that phishing scam have already taken place to steal individuals' personal information such as birthdays, social security number, etc.

A Phishing scam is when fraudulent emails are sent out to individuals with the appearance of it coming from an legitimate company, such as the IRS. It is important with the economic impact payments being issued for individuals to be aware of potential scams of promising to get

About Adela



My name is Adela. I have been the Staff Social Worker at RILS for a year and half. Before RILS, I was a Case Manager for two years in an Elder Care unit and I also spent a year as a Social Worker helping college students reach their goal of graduation. I graduated from Rhode Island College in 2016 with a BSW and in 2020, I graduated with my Maters in Criminal Justice

individuals their checks faster but only if they release personal information. **The IRS will never call.** All information for the economic impact check is located in the [IRS Website](#).

[IRS Phishing Warning](#)

[IRS Warning \(Spanish\)](#)

from University of Phoenix. I have experience working with diverse populations including seniors, adults, LGBTQ+, and domestic violence survivors. My purpose is to connect our clients to the resources which allows them to find stability again.

Other Phishing Scams to Look Out for:

Fake COVID 19 Testing Sites: These have been setup by scammers where they request payment for the test but the individual receives fake results. If residents are getting tested, **please go to the drive up sites arranged by the state.** Your Primary Care Provider will be able to tell you where can obtain a real test that is to be covered by your health insurance.



Imposter Health Officials: Be aware of "Health Officials" showing up at your home offering to complete a COVID-19 test but ask for your personal information before performing said test. **These are not real health officials.** Do not let them in your home and do not give them any personal information.



The Grandparent Scam: This scam has also been changed to fit the pandemic. This involves getting a call from a family member from a number you do not recognize, asking for money because they are sick or trapped overseas.

Remember to remain calm, hang up the call, and call your family member on the number you have saved. This will allow you to double check the information being given. The grandparent scam is popular; scammers have managed to steal thousands of dollars from individuals in the past.

[Find Out More Here](#)

As always, be aware of scammers and never give personal information over the phone or to anyone you do not know. It is unfortunate that some people take a time of uncertainty to steal from

others, but we can combat against scammers by be vigilant and prepared. If a call or visit feels wrong, it probably is.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

We all know someone who has been impacted by this crisis. If you need help, our Providence office can be reached at 401-274-2652 and our Newport office can be reached at 401-846-2264. If you'd like to help, [donate here](#). Other helpful resources are available too. You are not alone.



Click the buttons below for more useful information:

**Center for Disease
Control & Prevention
(CDC)**

**RI Office of the
Governor, Gina Raimondo**

**US Department of
Veteran Affairs**

**Medicare & Medicaid
Resources**

Social Security Resource

United Way Rhode Island

**RI Coalition for the
Homeless**

**RI Department of Labor
and Training**

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