



SCAM
ALERT

TELEVISION STREAMING SERVICE SCAM

Television streaming services have become more popular during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Scam predators trying to obtain your personal information may reach out to you through text or email offering you a free year of service. The message may say that due to the pandemic, a well-known streaming service such as Netflix or Hulu is extending this offer to help everyone shelter in place. There will be a button or a link that they ask you to click to sign up, but it takes you to a phony site where you are asked for your personal information and possibly credit card numbers. This is a dangerous scam and these scam predators are not connected to any legitimate businesses!

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Better Business Bureau (BBB) recommend the following to protect yourself from this type of scam predator:

- 📌 **Do not believe every text or email.** Generally, companies cannot send you messages unless you opt in to receive them. If you receive a message from a company you do not remember signing up with, proceed with caution.
- 📌 **Contact the company directly.** If an offer seems strange or too good to be true, call the number listed on the company's website. Do not follow a link in the message.
- 📌 **Ignore instructions to reply with "STOP" or "NO."** Even if you realize the message is a scam, do not respond. Scam predators verify that your email or cell number are active if you respond.

Note: You may report scam predators to the FTC, BBB, Adult Protective Services (APS), Office of the Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Internet Crime Complaint Center.

If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact
San Bernardino County APS at 1 (877) 565-2020
or your local police department.