



**SCAM
ALERT**

Aging and Adult Services

CORONAVIRUS GOVERNMENT CHECKS

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is offering caution during this crisis as the federal government develops a plan to send checks in the mail or through direct deposit to many Americans as part of the Coronavirus stimulus package. Although details are still in progress, scam predators are working on their own plans and everyone must be alert. It is unusual for a Scam Alert to be issued in advance; however, these are not normal times, and keeping safe from scams is too important to wait to share this information.

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) and the FTC recommend remembering these important details, regardless of what the final government plan is:

- Do not pay anyone! The government will not ask you to pay anything up front to receive this economic stimulus money. No fees. No charges. No nothing.
- Guard your personal information, including Medicare, address, and relative's information. Keep your cards in a safe place.
- Never give personal identification information! No one will call to ask for your Social Security Number (SSN), bank account information or credit card numbers. Anyone who does is a scam predator. Hang up!
- Beware of false promises! Anyone offering to get you the money sooner is a scam predator.
- Visit the official site of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) and links to services at <https://irs.gov>.

Note: You may report scam predators to the FTC, Adult Protective Services (APS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).

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.