

Scammed Online? Take These 12 Steps Immediately

1. Secure your devices

Run antivirus/malware scans, update passwords, and enable two-factor authentication.

2. Contact your financial institutions

Notify your bank, credit card providers, and crypto wallet services immediately.

3. Place a fraud alert

Contact one of the major credit bureaus:

- Equifax: <https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/>
- Experian: <https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html>
- TransUnion: <https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>

4. Report identity theft

Report to the FTC at <https://www.IdentityTheft.gov> to create a recovery plan.

5. Report the scam

File complaints with:

- FBI IC3: <https://www.ic3.gov>
- FTC: <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>
- State Attorney General: <https://www.naag.org/find-my-ag/>

6. Secure your email

Update passwords and enable 2FA. Google recovery: <https://accounts.google.com/signin/recovery>

7. Report a stolen driver's license

Contact your state DMV for a replacement.

8. Secure your phone number

Call your carrier to prevent SIM swapping.

9. File a police report

Bring evidence such as emails, screenshots, and transaction details.

10. Report the scam to platforms

Report scams on Facebook, YouTube, Craigslist, and other sites.

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11. Keep records

Save all confirmation numbers, reports, and correspondence.

12. Continue monitoring

Check your credit reports and accounts regularly.