

May 2016

Fraud Alert!

HOW SCAMMERS FIND YOU

Ever wonder how scammers get your phone number, address or email? Is it random or is there science to the targeting? Experts say it's some of both.

Former con artist Frank W. Abagnale equates it to playing roulette. Sometimes your unlucky number just comes up. But AARP Foundation's Amy Nofziger, who has degrees in criminology and sociology, cites three additional reasons.

1. **Data purchases**

"Scammers buy phone numbers from companies that sell data," she explains. "They'll use the same methods legitimate marketing companies do, but for nefarious purposes."

2. **Con artists network**

"If you've been a victim of a fraud or scam, you're put on a so-called sucker list," Nofziger says. "The lists are bought, sold, traded and stolen among scammers because they're perceived as potential gold mines. Scammers will usually target the victims with a 'recovery' or 'reload' scam. They pretend to be from a consumer group or law enforcement agency and trick you into thinking they'll help get your money back — for a fee."

3. **Volunteered info**

This is personal info you willingly divulge by entering giveaways and sweepstakes, or when filling out surveys. "Scammers use all this to create profiles for who they want to target," Nofziger says. "Often they'll target older adults, who they perceive as holding the majority of wealth in this country."

Reprinted from: <http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2015/scams-and-frauds-to-avoid.html>

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Monthly Fraud Alerts brought to you by:

Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force

Bucks County District Attorney's Office

215-348-6344

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

215-348-0510

Bucks County Coroner's Office

215-348-3852

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)

1-800-675-6900

A Woman's Place (AWP)

1-800-220-8116

Bucks County Office of Consumer Protection

215-348-6060

Bucks County Register of Wills

215-348-6265

www.crimesaginstolderadultsbucks.org

24 - HOUR HOTLINE: 1-800-490-8505