To prevent online scams, keep your computer software updated. Download the latest versions of your operating system, web browsers, and apps. This will help keep your personal information safe.

Be cautious of telephone numbers on your caller ID. Scammers can change the telephone number to make a call appear as if it is coming from a different person or place. This is called spoofing.

Never pay to find out about or to be a part of a clinical trial. Scammers often try to steal money in this way. Real clinical trials do not require payments.

Make sure to check a trusted source to see if the organization is legitimate before giving out any information. Scammers pretend to be from official organizations to get your personal information in order to commit identity theft or fraud and to participate in phishing.

Active-duty military and their spouses are more likely than non-military consumers to report losing money to certain types of scams.
If you have a complaint about criminal conduct like a scam, contact your local law enforcement agencies.

Additionally, attacks may be reported to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov. Trained analysts at the IC3 can review and research your complaints then disseminate the information to local, state, federal, and/or international authorities for appropriate action.

To report identity theft and get a recovery plan, visit the Federal Trade Commission’s www.IdentityTheft.gov.

The Federal Trade Commission also accepts reports on scams at www.FTC.gov/complaint.

For more information, please call the Attorney General Jeff Landry’s Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 351-4889.

**RESOURCES**

- AGJeffLandry.com/Resources
- VA.gov/oig/fraud/
- DAV.org/veterans/resources/veteran-scams/
- MilitaryConsumer.gov