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TEEN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Stay Smart, Stay Safe, Avoid Fraud!

Fraud is a term that might sound intimidating, but once you learn what it means, you'll be better equipped to protect yourself and your belongings.

What is Fraud?

Fraud is when someone deceives or tricks another person for their own benefit, usually to gain access to money or something valuable. Imagine someone pretending to sell a cool video game, but they never actually have it. Instead, they take your money and disappear. That's fraud!



Fraud can happen in many places: online, in stores, and even in person. It can involve fake products, scams to get you to provide money or personal information, or false promises that you've won money or prizes. Understanding fraud is important because it helps protect you from getting cheated.

Common Types of Fraud

Online Scams: These can include phishing emails or texts – these may look real, but it's someone trying to steal your personal information. For example, you might receive an email that looks like it's from your favorite social media site, asking you to update your password.

Fake Products: Sometimes people sell items that look great but are actually fake or broken. For instance, a seller might advertise limited-edition sneakers that are just cheap knock-offs pretending to be the real thing.



Avoid Fraud! (continued)

Identity Theft This happens when someone steals your personal information, like your name or social security number, to impersonate you. This can lead to serious issues, like debt in your name!

Prize Scams: You might receive a message claiming you've won a prize, but you need to pay a fee to claim it. If you didn't enter a contest, you probably didn't win anything! And remember, legitimate companies do not ask for money, passwords, account information, or other personal information in order to claim a prize.

How to Avoid Fraud

Be Skeptical and Recognize Warning Signs: If something sounds too good to be true, or seems suspicious, it probably is. Always think twice before giving away your personal information or money.

Check Sources: If you receive an email or message claiming to be from a company, don't click on any links. Instead, go to their official website directly and see if the information is there.

Never Share Personal Info: Keep your personal information, like your address, phone number, and passwords, private. Don't share these details with anyone you don't trust completely. Also, don't accept friend requests from anyone you don't know in real life.

Ask for Help: If you're unsure about something, talk to a parent, teacher, or trusted adult. They can help you figure out if something is suspicious.

Use Strong Passwords: Create strong, unique passwords for your online accounts and change them regularly. Avoid using easily guessed passwords like "123456" or "password". Also, use different passwords for different accounts. If a fraudster gets your password for one website, they may try to use it on multiple sites.

Monitor Your Accounts: Keep an eye on your bank accounts and online activities. If you notice anything strange, report it right away!

Understanding fraud is super important, especially as we spend more time online and in a digital world. By staying informed and using common sense, you can protect yourself from scams and keep your hard-earned money safe. Remember, if you ever feel uncertain about a situation, don't hesitate to reach out for help.



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