



Public Service Announcement

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



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March 18, 2024

IC3 Annual Report and Fraud Flyer

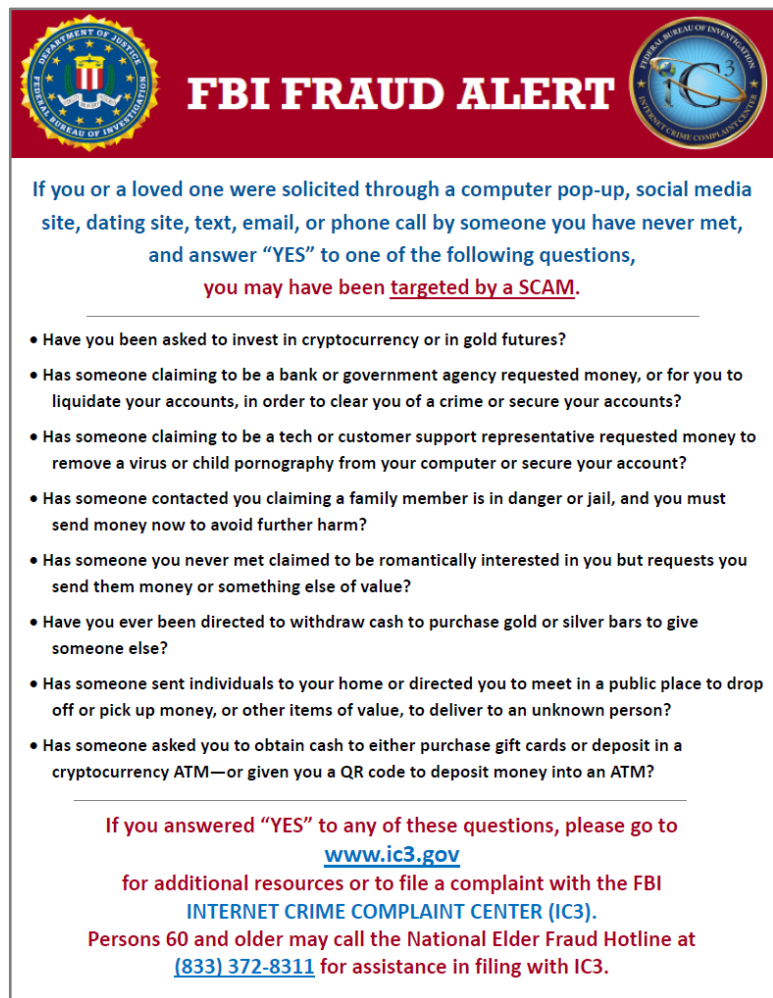
On 03/06/2024, the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) released the 2023 IC3 Annual Report. In 2023, the IC3 received a record number of complaints from the American public: 880,418 complaints, with potential losses exceeding \$12.5 billion. This is nearly a 10% increase in complaints, and represents a 22% increase in losses, compared to 2022.

Most losses reported to the IC3 are the result of frauds and scams.

Complainants report a wide variety of payment methods in these scams, such as cash and gold shipments, wire transfers, prepaid and gift cards, and cryptocurrency ATMs.

To bring additional awareness, the IC3 and FBI-Milwaukee created an [FBI Fraud Alert flyer](#) of common themes used in frauds and scams commonly reported to IC3. The flyer can be posted in places where it may be visible to potential fraud victims, such as financial institutions, prepaid and gift card kiosks, and mail or shipping services.

While the flyer does not encompass every aspect of frauds and scams, the questions were designed to provoke thought and conversation. The public is encouraged to review IC3 [Public Service Announcements](#) and [Annual Reports](#) for current and more in-depth trends and analysis.



FBI FRAUD ALERT

If you or a loved one were solicited through a computer pop-up, social media site, dating site, text, email, or phone call by someone you have never met, and answer "YES" to one of the following questions, you may have been targeted by a SCAM.

- Have you been asked to invest in cryptocurrency or in gold futures?
- Has someone claiming to be a bank or government agency requested money, or for you to liquidate your accounts, in order to clear you of a crime or secure your accounts?
- Has someone claiming to be a tech or customer support representative requested money to remove a virus or child pornography from your computer or secure your account?
- Has someone contacted you claiming a family member is in danger or jail, and you must send money now to avoid further harm?
- Has someone you never met claimed to be romantically interested in you but requests you send them money or something else of value?
- Have you ever been directed to withdraw cash to purchase gold or silver bars to give someone else?
- Has someone sent individuals to your home or directed you to meet in a public place to drop off or pick up money, or other items of value, to deliver to an unknown person?
- Has someone asked you to obtain cash to either purchase gift cards or deposit in a cryptocurrency ATM—or given you a QR code to deposit money into an ATM?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, please go to www.ic3.gov for additional resources or to file a complaint with the FBI INTERNET CRIME COMPLAINT CENTER (IC3). Persons 60 and older may call the National Elder Fraud Hotline at [\(833\) 372-8311](tel:833-372-8311) for assistance in filing with IC3.

If you, or someone you know, can answer "Yes" to any of the questions on the flyer, it is possible you were targeted by a scam. Please go to www.ic3.gov for additional resources or to file a complaint. Regardless if money was lost or not, you are encouraged to report your experience to the [IC3](#) as soon as possible.