



TNEJC WEEKLY UPDATE

National elder-justice developments. Tennessee-ready prevention and response.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

A BADGE NUMBER IS NOT PROOF.

THIS WEEK'S ACTION

If anyone claiming to be an official asks for money: STOP. VERIFY through a number you find yourself. TELL someone you trust.

FIELD LESSON FROM MICHIGAN | SEPT. 18

Scammers can invent badge numbers and send a courier.

A couple believed they were in trouble with the FTC. The caller gave a badge number and arranged for money to be collected. A neighbor encouraged them to call police.

What to do: End the call. Find the agency's real number yourself. Never hand cash, gold, gift cards, or cryptocurrency to someone who contacts you unexpectedly.

[Read the Michigan case report](#) | [Read the FTC warning](#)

WATCH FOR A FALSE REFUND

Do not give remote access.

WARNING + ACTION

A caller says you received too much money, asks to control your screen, or directs a wire or crypto transfer. End the session and call your bank using the number on your card.

[IC3 elder-fraud help](#)

FAKE POLICE OR COURT NOTICE

There is no 'digital arrest.'

WARNING + ACTION

Threats, video monitoring, fake documents, secrecy, or a demand for a 'safe' account are scam signs. Hang up and call the agency through a number you find independently.

[FTC impersonator guidance](#)

IF MONEY OR INFORMATION WAS ALREADY SENT

1. Call the bank or payment company now and ask for fraud help.
2. Save messages, screenshots, receipts, phone numbers, and usernames.
3. Tennessee APS: 1-888-277-8366. Report online fraud at IC3.gov.
4. Call 911 for immediate danger, threats, or coercion.
5. Tell someone you trust. Being deceived is not your fault.

[Tennessee APS](#) | [IC3 elder-fraud help](#)



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