



# Don't become a victim of fraud!

## 209,000

Reports of fraud and other scams in  
New York State

## \$400 million

Total New York State fraud losses

## \$500

Average cost to each victim



# Tips to guard against fraud, scams, and identity theft

## Create strong passwords

Passwords should be 12-14 characters long and consist of both uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Use phrases instead of single words, and never reuse a password.

## Enable multifactor authentication for online accounts

Multifactor authentication verifies your identity in two or more ways. Turn on multifactor authentication to protect your sensitive accounts.

## Verify attachments, QR codes, and hyperlinks

Confirm that email attachments and links are safe before clicking or scanning. Attachments, QR codes, and hyperlinks that look legitimate could link to malicious websites.

## Confirm a person's identity before giving them any personal information

Scammers often claim to represent government agencies, banks, or other familiar entities. Verify that the person you're communicating with is who they say they are.

## Don't share personal information on social media

Thieves can use the information you post online to crack security questions or guess passwords. Don't share details of your life with strangers.

## Destroy paper documents securely

Paper documents containing personal information should be shredded or properly destroyed. Do **not** throw confidential information in the trash.

## Review credit reports and financial records

Review your credit reports and bank statements regularly. Entries for purchases or withdrawals you didn't make, or unrecognized accounts in your name, could be signs of identity theft.



Department of  
Taxation and Finance

[www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov)

(search: *fraud*)

