

It's probably a **SCAM** if:

- you see a “pop-up” COVID test site that has not been referred by your doctor or is not listed on a public health website.
- you receive a threatening call from the IRS or Social Security Administration.
- you receive a call from a grandchild who is in trouble, needs money immediately and wants you to keep it a secret.
- you receive a request for money on Facebook, IM or Text from an acquaintance or stranger.
- you see an opportunity on-line promising a job, but you must provide your **Personal Identifying Information (PII)** and/or money.
- you receive a phone call, email or a pop-up message on your computer asking for your PII.
- a message pops up on your computer suggesting that your computer has a virus and you have to pay them to fix it. **DO NOT CLICK ON THE MESSAGE.**
- you are offered a free trial, but have to pay shipping and handling.
- you receive a call, email or letter informing you that you have won the lottery, sweepstakes or “Publisher’s Clearing House”. It always follows with a request for you to send money for insurance or taxes.
- you meet someone on-line who professes their love quickly without actually meeting you, claims to need money for an emergency, tries to lure you off the dating site and/or plans to visit, but they always cancel because of some “emergency.”

What is Personal Identifiable Information (PII)?

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) defines Personal Identifiable Information or PII as any information that permits the identity of an individual to be directly or indirectly inferred, including any information that is linked or linkable to that individual, regardless of whether the individual is a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, visitor to the U.S., or employee or contractor to the Department. Examples of PII are: your full name, home address, email address, social security number, Medicare number, passport number, driver’s license number, credit card numbers & date of birth.

Butler County Prosecuting Attorney

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SCAM HOTLINE: 1-888-662-3673