



# LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Public Awareness Bulletin

### GIFT CARD SCAMS

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**NO BUSINESS, GOV'T AGENCY, OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WILL EVER ASK FOR PAYMENT VIA GIFT CARDS!**



In 2024, 13 gift card scam incidents have occurred, **resulting in losses of \$25,500**. Incidents in 2024 increased by 62.5% compared to 2023 (8 incidents) and 85.7% compared to 2022 (7 incidents).

#### Who is being targeted in Lincoln?

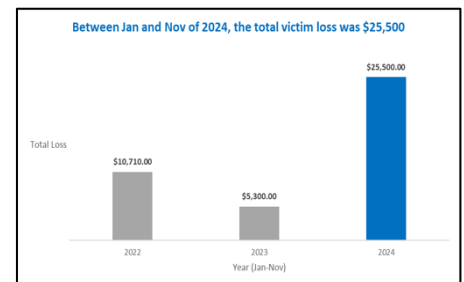
Most victims are seniors (ages 69+)

#### What is the trending type of gift card scam?

*Computer technical support scams*

Technical support scams prey on older people's lack of knowledge about computers and cybersecurity.

A pop-up message usually appears on a computer, telling the user their device is damaged and needs repair. When the user calls the support number for help, the scammer may either request remote access to the older person's computer and/or demand the person pay a fee to have it repaired. **LEGITIMATE TECH SUPPORT WON'T EVER SEEK YOU OUT TO FIX AN ISSUE.**



#### How do I prevent computer tech support scams?

- ✓ Protect your personal information. Never provide your personal information by email or phone
- ✓ Keep your computer up to date regularly and install trusted antivirus software
- ✓ Don't click on any links in website pop-ups or emails

#### What should I do if I have been a victim of a scam or contacted by a scammer?

- ✓ Contact Lincoln Police Department at 916-645-4040
- ✓ File complaints with the FBI [Home Page - Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#) and/or report the scam online to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov).

Additional resources can be found at National Council On Aging <https://www.ncoa.org>