



New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs

★ ★ **March 17, 2017 FRAUD ALERT** ★ ★

ALERT–**Don't Fall for Area Code Scam** – The “area code” scam is making a comeback, according to a March 15th article on APP.com. The scam is simple: You get a phone call from a strange area code. A message might be left or it may be a hang-up call. Curiosity gets the best of you, and you call the number back. Then you get socked with a bill for calling an international number, sometimes up to \$20 for the first minute. Experts quoted in the article warned against dialing the number back without recognizing where it came from. If you're curious, look up the area code on Google, an expert advised. If you see the code is from a foreign country, chances are that it's a scam. Find the story here: <http://www.app.com/story/money/business/consumer/press-on-your-side/2017/03/14/area-code-scam-dont-get-suckered/99159958/>.

ALERT–**IRS Warns of Tax Scams Making the Rounds** – A March 2nd article on NJ.com details 12 different scams the Internal Revenue Services is warning taxpayers to avoid. Those scams include phishing scams, in which taxpayers receive an email, purportedly from the IRS, providing a link to a website that, when opened, allows a program to be installed on the recipient's computer. That program can then mine for personal data and financial information, which can be used in identity theft schemes. Similar scams use text messaging or phone calls to threaten consumers with arrest if they do not provide personal information. The IRS says it will never demand personal information in such a manner and urges taxpayers to double check all email and phone claims with an IRS office. Find the story here: http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2017/03/these_are_the_top_12_scams_to_watch_for_this_tax_s.html#incart_2box_nj-homepage-featured.

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if you suspect **FRAUD**



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