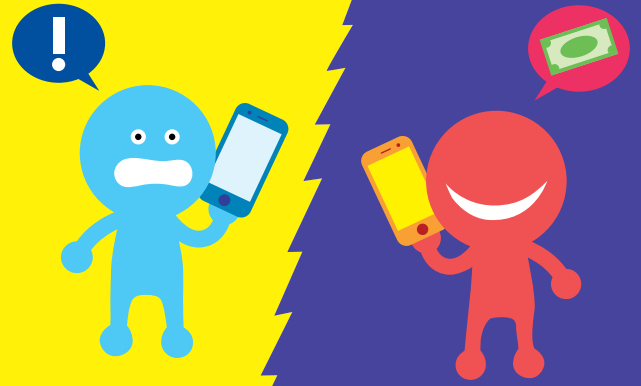


AVOIDING THE LATEST PHONE SCAM TARGETING CHINESE NEW YORKERS



How are scammers targeting New Yorkers?

Scammers are calling and leaving voicemails in Mandarin, from numbers appearing to originate from mainland China, claiming to be from the Chinese Embassy, Chinese Consulates, or from Chinese law enforcement agencies. These callers request that you pick up a package or, alternatively, provide personal financial information, such as bank account or credit card information, to avoid issues with your legal status, or to avoid arrest the next time you travel to China. Scammers are reportedly targeting Chinese immigrants or people with Chinese last names.

The incoming phone number for these scams is often similar to the recipient's own number or to the Chinese Embassy's real number, (212) 244-XXXX. The scammers are also using email and WeChat in their attempts to defraud people.

What are some steps I can take to avoid becoming a victim of fraud?

- **Never give out personal information** to a stranger on the phone.
- **Never wire money to a stranger** through Western Union, MoneyGram, or any other wire service. The Chinese Embassy and Chinese Consulates have stated that they will never call to ask for money.
- **Never provide card numbers** for gift or money cards to a stranger on the phone.

What should I do if I think I've been scammed?

Call 311 and ask to connect with your local police precinct to file a police report. The NYPD does not ask about the immigration status of crime victims, witnesses, or other people who ask for help. Services are available in Chinese and other languages.

What other resources can immigrant victims of scams access in NYC?

To file a complaint with the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) about immigration assistance service providers (people or businesses that charge fees for any kind of immigration-related services), **call 311 and say "immigration service provider."**

To report immigration fraud and access other immigration-related services, **call the New Americans Hotline at (800) 566-7636.**

To access free, safe & confidential immigration legal services, **call 311 and say "ActionNYC."**

Services are available in Chinese and other languages.