



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ohioans Warned about Rise in Cryptocurrency Scams Targeting Older Adults

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Department of Aging (AGE) are urging Ohioans—especially older adults and their families—to be on high alert for financial scams involving cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin. Scammers typically contact individuals by phone, text message, or email. They often claim the person needs to pay a fine or fix a banking error using Bitcoin, gift cards, or other virtual currency.

“As digital currencies gain popularity, criminals are increasingly using them as a way to steal money from unsuspecting individuals,” ODJFS Director Matt Damschroder said. “No legitimate bank or government agency will ever pressure you to pay a fine or fix a banking error using cryptocurrency.”

ODJFS produced a [video](#) featuring actual police body cam footage of a scam being stopped thanks to the quick intervention of a good Samaritan in Texas.

“Scammers continue to find new and sophisticated ways to deceive people, like these emerging cryptocurrency scams,” said AGE Director Ursel J. McElroy. “I encourage older Ohioans and their loved ones to make it a point to stay up to date as these threats evolve; learn about the latest types of scams, share that knowledge with friends and family, and always check financial statements to make sure there are no unauthorized charges.”

Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, Ohio counties received 16,741 maltreatment referrals related to the financial exploitation of older adults. This accounted for 36% of all maltreatment reports during that time period.

Cryptocurrency scams typically begin with unsolicited emails, texts, or phone calls from individuals posing as family members, trusted companies, or even government agencies. These scammers often





pressure victims to act quickly, claiming they'll lose out on a big opportunity or need to help a loved one in trouble.

Key Indicators of a Bitcoin Scam:

- Urgent requests to fix an issue with payment in Bitcoin, other cryptocurrencies, or gift cards.
- Promises of large profits or guaranteed returns.
- Pressure to make immediate payments to avoid arrest or help a loved one in trouble.

Prevention Tips:

- Be cautious when someone demands immediate payment via wire transfer, gift card, or cryptocurrency.
- Call back the bank, business, or government agency through officially posted numbers.
- Never give personal or financial information to someone who contacts you unexpectedly.
- Don't share remote access to your computer with unknown individuals.
- Always research businesses or charities before sending money or signing documents.
- If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

ODJFS oversees the investigation of cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation involving vulnerable adults ages 60 and older.

If someone suspects a vulnerable adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited, they can call the state of Ohio's Adult Protective Services hotline at 855-644-6277 (855-OHIO-APS), report directly to their [county JFS](#), or contact local law enforcement.

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, adult protective services, and child support services.

