



Ropes Wealth offers tips for fraud prevention

Be Suspicious. Please be highly suspicious of all unsolicited communications regarding the present pandemic. Almost certainly, if you receive a text message related to COVID-19 on your phone – it is a scam. A popular scam is a text claiming you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, with a prompt to click on a provided link.

Stay Vigilant. Avoid opening attachments and clicking on links within emails from senders you do not recognize. These attachments can contain malicious content, such as ransomware, that can infect your device and steal your information.

Guard Your Information. Do not respond to incoming emails or phone calls requesting account information or requesting you to verify your account. Legitimate businesses and financial institutions will never call you or email you directly for this information.

Secure Emails. Do not send sensitive information (i.e. account numbers) in email, unless it is encrypted. If scammers can access your email, they will be able to access the sensitive information in your inbox, outbox, and trash.

Review Passwords. Choose strong passwords with a unique combination of characters and numbers, such as unique phrases you can remember. Once one username/password combination is compromised, other logins using the same credentials may be compromised as well.

Verify websites. Prior to entering any financial or other sensitive information, confirm the letters at the beginning of the address bar at the top of the screen are “https.” Consider any certificate error from your web browser as a red flag that the website is not considered secure.

Research Charities. Before donating, research the legitimacy of the charity. Never feel rushed into making a donation and pay via credit card or check. If you see any red flags, or if you’re unsure about how a charity will use your donation, consider giving to a different charity.

Stay Informed. Go to ftc.gov/coronavirus for the latest information on scams. Sign up to get FTC’s alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.

The information set forth in this communication is presented by Ropes Wealth Advisors LLC (“Ropes Wealth”) a wholly owned subsidiary of Ropes & Gray LLP. The contents are for informational and educational purposes only and are not intended as investment, legal or tax advice. Please consult with your investment, legal or tax advisor concerning any specific questions you may have. Ropes Wealth cautions the reader that past results are not indicative of future performance. The historical return of markets generally and of individual assets classes or individual securities may not be an accurate predictor of future returns of those makers, asset classes or individual securities. Ropes Wealth does not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of any sourced data in this communication.