#### DIGITALLY EMPOWERED®: YOUR DIGITAL SAFETY

**Program Resource Guide** 





**Digital safety:** This means that you can recognize and avoid Internet threats, helping to keep your personal information secure while protecting your computer or device.

**Phishing scam:** A scam that seeks to access a user's personal information, including passwords, account numbers, or Social Security numbers.

**Privacy policy:** Legal language on a web page that outlines what information the organization is collecting from you, how it is being used, and with whom it might be shared.

## **Advice for Identifying Safe Websites**

- Check to see if the owner of the website is an organization that you trust and recognize.
- If it's a website where you have to log in, make sure that the web address starts with "https". The "s" at the end means that your data is secure and protected through encryption.



 A privacy policy should be easy to find on the website, and is typically linked at the very bottom of the page. Sites that ask you for personal information should always have safeguards in place for protecting your data.

# **Tips to Avoid Phishing Scams**

- Don't click on links or open files from sources you don't know or trust. It's a good idea to look at the full email address to ensure the message is coming from a real person. If you have doubts, don't open it.
- Avoid any claims that you owe money or that winnings are due to you. If you have any skepticism about emails like this, ignore them. You will likely be notified in other ways if these are legitimate claims.
- Remember no one should ask you for money via wire transfers or bank transfers.

### **Tablet & Smartphone Safety**

- Only download apps from app stores that are recommended by your phone manufacturer, to protect your device's security.
- Set your phone to automatically lock with a password when not in use, so that strangers can't access your personal information and data if you lose your phone.
- Install software updates as they become available, so that any security-based improvements are implemented.
- Back up your data using cloud-based storage to ensure you don't lose the personal information and data that are valuable to you.

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