

How to talk to your family about scams

without making anyone feel watched



FOR SENIORS

How to bring it up with your family:

If you've received something suspicious or if you just want to be more careful going forward, talking to your family doesn't have to feel like admitting a weakness.

Here's how to start:

"I heard there are some really sophisticated scams going around right now — even people with financial backgrounds are getting caught. Can we talk about what to watch for?"

"I found this website called GenGuard365 — it's a free tool that checks if a message is a scam. Can I show you how it works?"

"If I ever get something that feels off, I'm going to run it by you — and I want you to feel like you can do the same with me."

***Being cautious is not a sign of weakness.
It's a sign of experience.***

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FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

How to help without taking over:

The most important thing you can do is create safety without creating surveillance. Your parent needs to feel like they can come to you with a suspicious message without being lectured or having their independence questioned.

What helps:

“I read that scammers are specifically targeting people with financial backgrounds right now — the really sophisticated schemes. I found a tool I want to show you.”

“Anytime something feels weird, will you text it to me before you click anything? I'll look at it with you.”

Bookmark GenGuard365 on their phone and label it simply: “Is this a scam?”

What doesn't help:

Taking their phone or computer without asking.

Saying “I told you so” if they almost fell for something.

Treating them like they need to be monitored.

The goal is confidence, not control. And the goal is a family that talks about this stuff openly — because silence is what scammers count on.

