Especially during this time, we remind you to beware of individuals using fraudulent information to target vulnerable populations, particularly our seniors. Scammers and hackers may exploit concerns regarding COVID-19 in order to obtain personal information or demand money.

Common scams:

- Fraudulent texts, emails, social media posts with links for coronavirus information that install malware software on a device to steal personal information, including passwords and credit card numbers
- Fraudulent websites related to the virus outbreak, including fake online stores selling protective wear and household supplies
- Fraudulent calls, emails, websites seeking charitable donations
- Communications promoting fraudulent treatment information
- Calls demanding money for treatment for family members with the virus
- Fraudulent communications offering investment advice or information on the economic impact of COVID-19
- Individuals posing as family member or friend and seeking money for an urgent matter

Helpful tips:

- Beware of any calls, emails or other communications with "urgent" demands for money or seeking to verify personal information
- Carefully review any emails or correspondence from organizations seeking charitable donations
    - Make charitable donations directly on the organization's website
- Beware of solicitations for money over the phone
- Never send money to a person you do not recognize or cannot verify their identity
- Beware of fraudulent emails that appear to be from reputable sources
    - Check URL link (official government publications end in .gov), email addresses and spelling errors
- Do not download attachments or click on links in unsolicited emails or from unknown senders
- For updates and new information on COVID-19, the official sources are:
    - Massachusetts Department of Public Health, www.mass.gov
    - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov
    - World Health Organization, www.who.int

If you believe you have been a victim of a scam, contact your local police department.

For more information contact the Middlesex District Attorney's Office at 781.897.8300 or visit us online at www.middlesexda.com