

THE MORE YOU KNOW...

KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT FRAUD SCHEMES

NEW FTC RULES FOR TELEMARKETERS PROTECT CONSUMERS

The FTC released a notice that it has approved final amendments to its Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR) that will protect consumers from fraud!

The amendments approve prohibit legitimate telemarketers from utilizing the following types of payment methods favored by con artists and scammers:

- ◆ Checks and “payment orders” that are “remotely created” by the telemarketer or seller;
- ◆ “cash-to-cash” money transfers (i.e. services provided by MoneyGram, Western Union, and RIA); and
- ◆ “cash reload” mechanisms (i.e. MoneyPak, Vanilla Reload, and Reloadit packs used to add funds to existing prepaid cards).

“Con artists like payments that are tough to trace and hard for people to reverse,” said Jessica Rich, Director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection. “The FTC’s new telemarketing rules ban payment methods that scammers like, but honest telemarketers don’t use.”

Beginning in early 2016, any telemarketer calling you and requesting one of these payment methods should make you skeptical!



WANT TO REPORT A POSSIBLE FRAUD?

General Reports: Anti-Fraud Hotline (provided by the U.S. Senate Aging Commission) at 1.855.303.9470 or www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline

International fraud scheme? International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) at www.econsumer.gov

Telephone or online fraud scheme? Federal Trade Commission (877.FTC.Help), www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov or Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov)

Mail fraud scheme? United States Postal Inspection Service at 1.717.257.2330 or www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Scheme involving money sent with GreenDot, MoneyGram or Western Union?
Green Dot: 1.866.795.7597

MoneyGram: 1.800.MONEYGRAM or 1.800.666.3947

Western Union Fraud Hotline: 1.800.448.1492