# COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2024

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# **Solano County launches Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center to fight scammers**

SOLANO COUNTY - Responding to a spike in reports of scams targeting local seniors, Solano County's Older and Disabled Adult Services, (ODAS) Adult Protective Services (APS) has launched the Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center, <a href="SolanoScamCenter.org">SolanoScamCenter.org</a>, pairing it with an extensive public education campaign. The effort aims to prevent financial exploitation by scammers and by less than honest family members and inform residents of the resources available to those impacted by these crimes.

"Scammers are everywhere—including Solano County—and they're more clever than ever," said Mike Watson, Social Services Manager for APS. "With the advent of new technologies, sophisticated fraudsters are able and willing to do nearly anything for a quick buck—fraudsters can come from down the street or across the globe. The new center equips the community with the knowledge and tools it needs to stop these bad actors."

Available via Solano County's one-stop resource guide <u>SolanoCares.org</u>, the Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center provides vital information and tools to empower seniors and their caregivers to identify, stop and report fraudulent activities.

#### The website also shares five essential tips to prevent scams:

- 1. Always double-check the source of "government" communications.
- 2. Be vigilant and on the watch for fake social media identities and "sweetheart scams."
- 3. Bring skepticism to every prize or investment offer.
- 4. Be wary of "urgent" notices that claim your accounts or computer have been "compromised" without providing proof.
- 5. Monitor your finances often and protect your Power of Attorney.

The website also provides contact information and reporting strategies to connect with regulatory agencies, local law enforcement and APS.

"ODAS' dedicated team is prepared to assist Solano seniors," Watson continued. "If you're a victim of a scam and don't know where to turn, please give the APS team a call. We can help you file a report, contact law enforcement and learn to protect your finances. There's no shame in fighting back." For more information, visit <a href="SolanoScamCenter.org">SolanoScamCenter.org</a> or contact Solano County's <a href="Older & Disabled Adult Services">Older & Disabled Adult Services</a> at (707) 784-8259. Reports to APS can be filed at <a href="reporttoaps.org">reporttoaps.org</a> or by calling (707) 784-8259 during the day or (800) 850-0012 after hours.

## **SOLANO COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**

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<u>Solano County Older & Disabled Services</u> is dedicated to serving the needs of seniors and disabled adults in the community, offering a wide range of services including Adult Protective Services, In-Home Support Services and the upcoming Aging and Disability Resource Connection. Committed to the well-being and dignity of all individuals, ODAS works tirelessly to provide support, resources and advocacy for those in need.