AVOID FRAUD: TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR MONEY

DO NOT BELIEVE YOUR CALLER ID Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information. The name and number you see aren’t always real. If someone calls asking for personal information or money, hang up! If you think the caller could be telling the truth call back a number you know to be legitimate.

HANG UP ON ROBOCALLS If you answer the phone and hear either a recorded or live sale pitch, hang up and report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). These types of calls are illegal, and the products are often a fake. Do not press 1 to speak to a representative or to be taken off the list.

WATCH FOR CON ARTISTS Con artists often pretend to be someone you trust, like a family member, a charity, or a company you do business with. Do not send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request – whether it comes as a phone call, text or email.

SEARCH ONLINE Type a product or company name into your preferred search engine with words like “complaint,” “scam,” or “review.” You can also search for a phrase that describes your situation, like “IRS phone call.” Or you can search for phone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.

TALK TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST BEFORE ACTING Before you provide personal information or hand over money, talk to someone you trust. Scammers want you to make decisions in a hurry. They may even threaten you. Slow down, look into their story, do an online search, consult an expert – or just tell a friend about the situation.

DO NOT PAY UPFRONT FOR A PROMISE You may be asked to pay in advance for things like credit and loan offers, debt relief, mortgage assistance, or a job opportunity. They may say you’ve won a prize, but first you need to pay taxes, shipping or fees. There is a very good chance if you pay, they will take your money and vanish.

continued on page 2...
THINK ABOUT HOW YOU PAY  Credit cards have considerable fraud protection, but some payment methods do not. Sending money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram can be risky because it is almost impossible to get your money back. This is also true for reloadable cards like Reloadit, MoneyPak, and Vanilla.

BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT FREE TRIAL OFFERS  Some companies will use free trials to sign you up for products and charge you every month until you choose to cancel. Before agreeing to a free trial, research the company and read the cancellation policy thoroughly. Always check your financial statements for unauthorized charges.

DO NOT DEPOSIT A CHECK AND SEND MONEY BACK  By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, however, uncovering a bogus check can take weeks. If you deposit a check that turns out to be phony, you’re responsible for repaying the bank.

KEEP INFORMED BY SIGNING UP FOR SCAM ALERTS FROM THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  Receive emails with the most current tips, alerts, and advice about scams. Go to www.ftc.gov and sign up for GET SCAM ALERTS. Learn about the clever schemes con artists are using to defraud millions of people each year.

DO YOU NEED A DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY?  There are many types of power of attorney (POA), and there are multiple reasons to use a power of attorney. You may even want to consider having one in place because you never know when an emergency may happen and a power of attorney may be needed. By having a POA in place you can permit another person to perform specific legal acts on your behalf.

For PERSI purposes, the PERSI Durable Limited Power of Attorney RS113 Form lets you assign someone (Attorney-in-Fact) else the right to make decisions and to take actions regarding your account(s). The RS113 form is limited to PERSI matters only.

Select someone you trust to serve your best interests and wishes as your Attorney-in-Fact. The Attorney-in-Fact’s authority will continue until your death unless you revoke the power of attorney or the Attorney-in-Fact resigns. If you choose to revoke a PERSI Durable Limited Power of Attorney, you must do so in writing to PERSI.

You may change your designated Attorney-in-Fact at any time by completing a new PERSI Durable Limited Power of Attorney form and submitting it to PERSI. The form provides for the designation of one (1) Attorney-in-Fact. If you wish to name more than one (1) Attorney-in-Fact, you may name a Co-Attorney-in-Fact in the Additional Special Instructions section. Co-Attorneys-in-Fact can act alone UN-
LESS you require them to act together in the Additional Special Instructions section.

PERSI provides this form as a convenience to members. If you do not state otherwise in the Additional Special Instruction section, such as an effective date, as soon as PERSI receives this Durable Limited Power of Attorney, properly completed, signed and notarized, the Attorney-in-Fact is authorized to act on your behalf effective IMMEDIATELY.

Also, you do not need to be incapacitated for the Attorney-in-Fact to act pursuant to this Durable Limited Power of Attorney. This is a durable power of attorney, meaning it remains valid notwithstanding your subsequent disability or incapacity.

If you have a power of attorney other than the RS113 form, PERSI will accept those, provided that it meets all legal requirements. As with the PERSI Durable Limited Power of Attorney RS113 form, a revocation must be done in writing.

If you have questions, please call the PERSI Answer Center 1-800-451-8228 or (208) 334-3365 in the Boise & surrounding areas.

---

LEARN MORE ABOUT PERSI’S CHOICE 401(k) PLAN WITH A WEBINAR MEETING

Beginning April 2nd through the 6th, your dedicated, personal Choice 401(k) Plan counselors, Ali Belden and Bruce Singkhaophet, will be helping you prepare for retirement through topic specific webinars.

Each Choice 401(k) Plan Retirement Readiness webinar will be 30 minutes and cover one of these topics:

- PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan Enrollment
- Knowledge is Power
- Website Tutorial: Using the website
- Market Volatility
- Steps to Building an Investment Strategy

Go Now, Go BIG with your retirement knowledge! Join a PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan Webinar! Space is limited. Register today! CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCHEDULE

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS? Ali and Bruce are available to provide one-on-one counseling for your Choice 401(k) Plan account. We encourage you to reach out to one of your plan representatives directly and learn how to plan for your future.

Ali Belden at 208-345-1120 or 1-844-446-8658, ext. 20431 and Ali.belden@empower-retirement.com.
Bruce Singkhaophet at 208-345-5201 or 1-844-446-8658, ext. 20461 and Bruce.singkhaophet@empowerretirement.com.
PERSI TRAINERS ARE ON THE ROAD! REGISTER TODAY!

Prepare for your future with one of PERSI’s Ready, Set, or Go! workshops! PERSI trainers are traveling the state delivering in-person training to employers and members, and want to help you take charge of your retirement.

The Ready, Set, and Go! workshops are popular and easy to schedule. Ready and Set workshops focus on educating our newer and younger members to better understand and appreciate their PERSI benefits. In our Go! workshop, trainers provide outstanding education to help members understand and prepare for retirement.

Visit the Education and Videos Quick Links on PERSI’s website to see full descriptions of the Ready, Set, and Go! workshops along with employer locations scheduled for workshops for the coming months and through the end of 2018. These workshops are open to members in the area and even those who don’t work for the host employer.

We really would like our members to take advantage of the training opportunities PERSI offers. Early requests are given priority, however, there is still time to schedule a workshop this year.

Please send us an email at workshops@persi.idaho.gov or call us at 208-287-9291 to schedule your workshop.

RETIREMENT PLANNING AND FINDING A FINANCIAL ADVISOR: ADVICE FROM A PERSI RETIREE

Make sure to watch a great new ten minute advice video featuring retired and former Boise Police Chief Mike Masterson and retired PERSI Trainer Mike Mitchell.

They discuss the importance of retirement planning, researching and finding the right financial advisor to help meet their needs in retirement. The full video is posted on PERSI’s website under Video Vault/Employer Videos and Video Vault/Members. The video is also segmented in 10 easy individual links for easier viewing.