

Protect yourself from scams targeting the Chinese community



Recognize the scams, how they work and what you can look out for to help stay safe.



New scam: What you need to know

Scammers are impersonating banks, telephone companies, officials from a Chinese Consulate office, or Chinese law enforcement, calling victims and claiming that they are being investigated for fraud or are in trouble with the Chinese government.

The scammers may have the victim's personal information or copies of official documents.

The scammers may threaten the victim with arrest or deportation to China unless they send money or provide personal and financial information such as passport and credit card numbers.



How it works

You receive a telephone call from a scammer claiming to work for a major cell phone company. They explain that a new cell phone account was opened in China using your name and personal information. The scammer states that the newly opened account was used to commit financial fraud and then transfers the call to someone claiming to be Chinese law enforcement.

The law enforcement officer threatens you with extradition to China unless you send funds to cover the fraud damages. They instruct you not to reveal the reason for the wire transfer to your family or bank and even coach you on how to respond to bank employees if they ask questions about the money transfer.

Fearing extradition, you send a wire transfer for the requested funds. After sending the funds, you do not hear from contacts again; you realize you've been scammed, the funds are long gone and cannot be recovered.

What to look out for

- Requests involving excessive urgency, persuasion, pressure, or manipulation.
- Threats of arrest or deportation to a foreign country.
- Unsolicited requests to provide personal information, banking information, or copies of official documents such as passports.
- Requests by government agencies or police to send money to foreign accounts.
- Instructions to forbid telling friends, family, or financial institutions the true circumstances of a payment or wire transfer.
- Requests that include guidance on how to answer questions asked by financial institutions regarding the reasons for a payment or wire transfer.
- Demands to cover the cost of damages caused by a crime committed in a foreign country.

Remember

Be mindful of sending personal or financial information and think twice if something feels off. If you think you're being scammed, report it to BMO immediately.



At BMO, your security is our priority. Learn more about fraud prevention by visiting [bmo.com/security](https://www.bmo.com/security).