



## Alaska Legal Services Corporation Warns Alaskans of Scam Impersonating Legal Aid

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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA — Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) has been made aware of a scam targeting Alaskans. Scammers are contacting individuals and falsely associating themselves with our organization and “legal aid” services. Once in contact, the scammer requests money through bank transfers or money apps under the pretense of helping family members in urgent legal trouble such as needing bail money or bonds. This scam, like the [grandparent scam](#), is unfortunately common and individuals should be on high alert.

It is important to emphasize that ALSC does not charge our clients any fees or contact family members to request any form of payment for services. As a [501\(c\)\(3\) nonprofit law firm](#), ALSC provides free civil legal services to low-income Alaskans and we do not engage in any type of criminal casework.

If you or someone you know is contacted by someone claiming to represent ALSC or “legal aid” and requesting money, or if you believe you are involved in a scam, please exercise caution and practice safeguards recommended by the [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#):

- **Avoid disclosing financial or personal information:** Scammers often use detailed information about family members to appear legitimate. Be careful and avoid disclosing any sensitive information. Be cautious of intimidation tactics as scammers often pressure potential victims into immediate bank transfers, mobile apps, or gift cards.
- **Ask questions and verify information:** When faced with unexpected requests for financial or personal information, ask questions to understand and verify the situation. Seek additional details that can be confirmed separately. In frauds like the grandparent scam, scammers discourage contacting other family members to maintain their narrative. Inform the caller you need to confirm information with other family members before proceeding. A reputable organization will understand this request without applying extra pressure.
- **Report the incident:** If you suspect you have been targeted by a scam, report it to the relevant authorities promptly. This helps prevent further scams and protects others. Report your call or message to the FTC online at [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov) or call 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357).

Raising awareness is one of the most effective deterrents against scams. Educate yourself and others on recognizing and responding to fraudulent activities. The FTC infographic [How to Spot, Stop, & Report Government Imposter Scams](#) provides information on avoiding and responding to scams. The [Better Business Bureau](#) website offers consumer awareness articles and you can also stay informed about local scams by utilizing the [AARP Fraud Watch Network Scam-Tracking Map](#).

*Please share this information with family and friends.*

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