



Kaiserslautern (Kleber Kaserne) Legal Assistance Office



Consumer Scam Resources

There are a few sites that provide invaluable information and resources for fighting consumer scams. The GSA site <http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/scamsresources.htm> lists sites that report on scams/frauds being committed against consumers. Some of these sites have toll-free hotlines for reporting scams/frauds and consumer abuse. The FTC site similarly provides good information on spotting and reporting consumer scams:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>

FCIC Scam Resources

Federal Trade Commission (FTC): The FTC works to protect consumers against unfair, deceptive, or fraudulent practices, and enforces a variety of federal antitrust and consumer protection laws. Don't get taken in by these everyday scams.

Consumer Sentinel: See how law enforcement all over the world work together to fight fraud, using Consumer Sentinel, an innovative, international law enforcement fraud-fighting program.

Better Business Bureaus Alerts: The Council of Better Business Bureaus (CBBB) posts warnings to notify consumers and businesses about recently discovered, fraudulent business scams, as well as help resolve buyer/seller complaints against a business including mediation and arbitration services.

Internet Fraud Complaint Center (IFCC) Provides victims of Internet fraud a convenient, easy-to-use reporting mechanism that alerts authorities of a suspected criminal or civil violation. The IFCC is a partnership between the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center.

Bureau of Public Debt (BPD): Is it really a security and is it really backed by the U.S. Government? Many schemes have been directed at banks, charities, companies, and even individuals, by others seeking payment on fraudulent securities. The BPD will alert you to these scams and help you protect yourself from being taken in.

Coalition Against Insurance Fraud: The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud is the only national organization dedicated exclusively to fighting insurance fraud through public advocacy and public education.

Medicare Fraud and Abuse: Medicare is taking strong action to combat fraud and abuse in key areas. Their goal is to make sure Medicare only does business with legitimate providers and suppliers who will provide Medicare beneficiaries with high quality services.

National Fraud Information Center (NFIC): The NFIC is a nationwide toll-free hotline for consumers to get advice about telephone solicitation and report possible telemarketing fraud to law enforcement agencies. NFIC Hotline 1-800-876-7060.

MyVesta.org: Myvesta.org is the nation's first non-profit, Internet-based financial counseling and services organization. They help people to overcome their money troubles through education and special programs. Myvesta.org was founded as Debt Counselors of America.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC): Confused over your telephone bill? You're not alone. Consumer confusion has significantly contributed to the growth of slamming, cramming and other types of telecommunications fraud. Contact the FCC to learn how to avoid those unwanted telephone solicitations or to report other abusive techniques.

Social Security Administration Office of Investigations: Is someone using your Social Security Number or falsely claiming disability rights? Get the facts on Social Security fraud. SSA Fraud Hotline 1-800-269-0271.

United States Postal Inspection Service: The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has a long, history of fighting criminals who attack our nation's postal system and misuse it to defraud the American public.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Fraud and abuse in both the Medicaid and Medicare programs cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year and can pose a threat to patient health and safety as well. Learn about some of the most common "rip-offs" and schemes and how you can protect yourself.

Military Sentinel: Military Sentinel allows members of the United States Armed Forces to enter consumer complaints directly into a database that is immediately accessible by over 500 law enforcement organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia. These law enforcement agencies use this complaint data to target cases for prosecution and other enforcement measures.

Housing and Urban Development: Federal laws and regulations protect you from discrimination, fraud and unscrupulous practices in buying and renting a home. Don't be a victim of people who may profit at your expense. Know your rights! You can also call the HUD Hotline 1.800.347.3735 for more information.

Securities and Exchange Commission: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) provides information on how to invest your hard earned dollars wisely and keeping an eye out for investment scams. To learn more about how to avoid costly mistakes and fraud, read, the SEC's "Investor Alerts".

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): The Department of Agriculture (USDA) investigates criminal violation of the Food Stamp Act. Information concerning food stamp trafficking, theft of food stamps, or other criminal violations of the Food Stamp Act should be reported.