Is this a scam? Check before you pay or share

A quick check for calls, texts, emails, rentals and job offers: the warning signs, what to verify and where to report. Keep it by your desk.

NAME _____ DATE _____

WARNING SIGNS (IF ANY APPLY, STOP)

- [ ] They want payment by gift card, crypto or wire transfer
- [ ] They threaten arrest, deportation or a fine unless I pay now
- [ ] They ask for my SIN, passwords or banking codes
- [ ] The deal is far better than normal (rent, job, prize)
- [ ] They won't let me hang up and call back
- [ ] The website or email address is slightly wrong

CHECK

- [ ] Hang up and call the organization's official number myself
- [ ] Check the official website by typing the address
- [ ] Ask a friend, my international office or my bank
- [ ] Never pay before verifying

Government agencies list how they contact people on their own websites. If you lost money, call your bank first, then report.

SOURCES (CHECKED 2026-11-26)

IRCC's fraud and scams pages cover international student scams, fraud targeting newcomers, and how to report immigration fraud. https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/protect-fraud.html (checked 2026-11-26)
The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre has a page for reporting fraud and cybercrime. https://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/report-signalez-eng.htm (checked 2026-11-26)