SMP Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

ND SMP Scam of the Month – August 2026

How Scammers Find Your Personal Information Online

Scammers look up information about people before they contact them. They can find details on public records, people-search websites, and social media without needing to hack anything. In a matter of minutes, a scammer can gather enough information to make their scam seem real. Because scammers already know personal details, their messages often sound believable and convincing.

Personal Information Scammers Can See

- Your home address and places where you have lived before
- Names of your family members, such as parents, brothers, sisters, and children
- Your age, birthday, and phone number
- Photos you share on social media
- Where you work or have worked, and where you went to school
- Your hobbies, interests, and groups or causes you support
- Public court records or legal documents
- Information about things you buy online or reviews you post online
- Scammers can find email addresses on a funeral home website after you visit an obituary and leave a message for the family.

Why Certain Groups Are Targeted More. Experts say scammers often target veterans, older adults, and people near retirement:

- Their personal information is often easy to find in public records
- They may trust messages that seem to come from official sources
- They may be using medical, financial, or government systems that scammers target

Steps to Protect Your Information Online. Search your name online to see what information is public. Remove your information from people-search sites like Whitepages, Spokeo, and MyLife. Set your social media accounts to private. Avoid sharing personal details like your birthday, travel plans, or military service.

Your online footprint is bigger than you think, and scammers use it to target people. You can lower your risk by sharing less personal information online and watching out for common scam tricks.

Reporting Medicare fraud:

Suspected Medicare fraud can be reported to ND SMP at 1-833-818-0029. Non-Medicare fraud can be reported to the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Information adapted from cybersecurity expert Kurt Knutsson (CyberGuy) and general consumer protection guidance on identity theft and online privacy.

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 833-818-0029 or (701) 858-3580

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit **https://ndcpd.org/smp/**

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